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Your Right to Know

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"I hope, you'll remain as friends of Bangladesh... you'll remain as goodwill ambassadors and will never forget Bangladesh."
PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA TELLS FOREIGN SOLDIERS GRADUATING FROM DSCSC



"Kick the government out of power" is street slang, not political language."
AL GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER ON GONOFORUM PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS



"It is unprecedented in Thailand, and I want this to be the last time this crisis happens."
THAILAND'S PRIME MINISTER PRAYUTH CHAN-OCHA ON SATURDAY'S MASS SHOOTING

LAST YEAR SAW RECORD NUMBER OF FIRES

24,074 incidents, Tk 330cr loss

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Fire incidents across the country rose by 22.5 percent to 24,074 last year, compared to 19,642 in 2018, causing a loss of Tk 330.41 crore, says a government report.

One-third of the fire incidents -- 8,466 -- occurred at households mainly due to electrical short circuit, show data compiled by Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Rapid urbanisation and careless use of electronic equipment are among the major reasons behind the rise in fire incidents, say

officials. They have stressed the need for raising awareness among people to prevent it.

Terming the rise alarming, Fire Service Director General Brig Gen Sazzad Hussain said, "We didn't conduct any research on why the number rose last year, but the difference is significant..."

In case of households, most of the fire incidents were caused by low quality electrical goods, he pointed out.

"We sometimes use several devices using a low quality multiplug. We even use the

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Thick smoke billowing from a building after a storage of plastic barrels caught fire yesterday afternoon in the capital's Shyambazar. Fires in plastic factories and storage facilities in Old Dhaka have caused major tragedies in recent years.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Coronavirus kills more than SARS

REUTERS, Shanghai/Beijing

China raised the death toll from its coronavirus outbreak to 811 yesterday, passing the number killed globally by the SARS epidemic, as authorities made plans for millions of people returning to work after an extended Lunar New Year break.

Many of China's usually teeming cities have almost become ghost towns during the past two weeks as Communist Party rulers ordered virtual lockdowns, cancelled flights, closed factories and shut schools.

Even today, a large number of workplaces and schools will remain closed and many white-collar employees will work from home.

The scale of the potential hit to an economy that has been the engine of global growth in recent years has taken a toll on financial markets, as shares slumped and investors switched into safe-havens such as gold, bonds and the Japanese yen.

China's cabinet yesterday said it would coordinate with transport authorities

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First Bangladeshi infected in Singapore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi worker in Singapore has been diagnosed with coronavirus infection, said the Ministry of Health of Singapore.

The worker has no known recent travel history to China, reports The Straits Times, Singapore.

The 39-year-old has a work-pass and was taken to an isolation room at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID).

His symptoms surfaced on February 1, and he went to a clinic on February 3, and Changi General Hospital on February 5. He was admitted to the intensive care unit at Changi General Hospital on February 7.

He was confirmed to have the coronavirus on Saturday afternoon, and was then transferred to the NCID.

The total number of people infected in Singapore has grown to 43.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the identity of the patient. Meanwhile, health staffers in all international ports of entry across the country screened some 16,023 incoming passengers from different countries in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday.

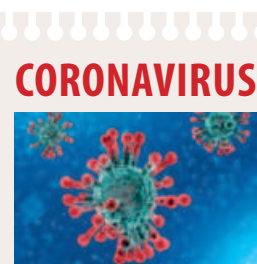
None of the screened had any symptoms of novel coronavirus, according to the daily report on coronavirus surveillance by the directorate general of health services (DGHS).

Over the 24-hour period, Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport reported the highest number of passengers screened with 8,210.

Two other international airports -- MAG Osmani International Airport in Sylhet and Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram -- screened 488 and 434 passengers respectively.

All the land ports collectively screened a total of 6,891 inbound passengers in the last 24 hours.

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Total deaths
813Deaths in
mainland China
811Confirmed cases
37,562Confirmed
cases in China
37,198Worst hit Chinese
region Hubei
27,100 casesCountries affected
27

SOURCE: WHO

Mega plan taken up to dredge 178 rivers

State minister tells JS; navigability of 10,000km of waterways to be ensured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken measures to ensure navigability in 10,000 kilometres of river routes through dredging 178 rivers, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury today told parliament.

"The current government has taken up a dredging master plan to bring navigability to the internal waterways across the country. Under it, around 10,000km of river routes will be made navigable through excavating 178 rivers by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority [BIWTA]," said the junior minister.

He said this in reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP Nurunnabi Chowdhury from Bhola-3.

As per the plan, the state minister said the BIWTA had begun excavation of 12 important river routes, capital dredging in 53 river routes, navigability development of the river route from Mongla port to Pakshi via Chandpur, Mawa, Goalando

and restoration of old Brahmaputra, Darla, Tulai and Punarva rivers.

Besides, feasibility study of 47 more rivers will be done under the plan, he added.

The minister's question-answer was tabled at the beginning of yesterday's parliament session with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

In reply to another query from treasury bench MP Kazi Nabil Ahmed from Jashore-3, the state minister informed the House that the length of the inland river routes reduced to about 6,000km during the dry season, while it rose to around 24,000km during the rainy season.

Replying to another question from AL MP M Abdul Latif from Chattogram-1, Khalid Mahmud said excavation of 470km of river routes under the Bangladesh-India river protocol had already begun. It will be jointly financed by the two countries.

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Tigers staring at innings defeat

SPORTS REPORTER

Pakistan pacer Naseem Shah became the youngest bowler to take a hat-trick in Test cricket, leaving the visiting Bangladesh on the verge of yet another humiliating innings defeat in the longest format of the game. Bangladesh were struggling on 126 for six in their second innings against Pakistan after the third day of the first Test in Rawalpindi yesterday.

Courtesy of the 16-year-old's late blow, Bangladesh lost four wickets for just two runs. The visitors require another 86 runs with four wickets in hand to avoid the innings defeat.

Naseem initiated the carnage by dismissing Nazmul Hossain Shanto on 38 and then removed Tajul

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A man signals a bus to stop as he jaywalks across a road in the capital's Farmgate yesterday. At the time the photo was taken, the man was surrounded by three buses and his actions put not only his but also others' lives at risk.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Crackdown on corruption, drugs to continue

PM reiterates at DSCSC graduation ceremony

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated that the ongoing drives against corruption, drugs and terrorism will continue to protect the society from such menaces.

"We have already announced a zero-tolerance policy against drugs, terrorism, militancy and corruption. So, the drives against corruption, drugs and terrorism will continue," she said while delivering her speech at the graduation ceremony of Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) 2020 at Sheikh Hasina Complex of Mirpur Cantonment in the capital.

The PM urged the members of the Armed Forces to pay special attention to these social menaces.

Hasina said her government wants to utilise merit, knowledge and strength of the youth in the interest of the country.

Mentioning that the Armed Forces of Bangladesh have been contributing to the United Nations peacekeeping missions, she said, "I want to develop them as modern forces so that they can move forward in keeping pace with any country and face the situation in any country [where they are or would be deployed]."

She added the Bangladesh Armed Forces earned fame in whichever country they worked in and won the hearts of the locals of different countries through humanitarian services.

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10 youths arrested for abducting teen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police on Saturday night arrested 10 youths on charge of abducting a teenage girl in Haluaghat upazila of Mymensingh.

The arrestees are Shakil, 21, Shariful Islam, 21, Mizanur Rahman Dipu, 20, Ratul Islam, 18, Monatjel Al Mahi, 17, Awlad, Nayan Mia, 16, Shahjahan Somrat, 17, Shahab Uddin, 18, and Ashik, 17.

All of them are from different villages in Haluaghat and adjacent Phulpur upazila, said Biplob Kumar Biswas, officer-in-charge of Haluaghat Police Station.

Shakil had long been stalking the girl and proposed her several times.

But as the girl refused him every time, an enraged Shakil devised a plot to kidnap her.

Riding on four motorcycles, the youths went to the girl's house to abduct her on Saturday afternoon.

As they dragged the girl out of her house, locals encircled them and called 999 for police help, the OC said, adding that a police team later went to the spot and arrested the perpetrators.

Victim's father filed a case in this connection on the same night, OC Biplob said.

A Mymensingh court sent the arrestees to jail after they were produced before it yesterday.

Crackdown on corruption

FROM PAGE 1

Emphasising on trainings, Hasina said she always thinks that training is the most important as the armed forces can protect the sovereignty and independence of the country as well as do social work more competently through trainings.

She mentioned that the armed forces have been playing a significant role in the social and infrastructural development in the country. "The fame [of the armed forces] has increased as they work very competently," the PM said.

About the fresh graduates, she said they have acquired knowledge of warfare and contemporary national and international affairs during their 45-week DSCSC course.

The PM said this acquired knowledge would help the graduates perform duties and responsibilities as well as face any challenge. They can also contribute more to the socioeconomic development of Bangladesh.

Hasina said her government formulated the "Forces Goal 2030" and is now implementing it for the development of the Armed Forces.

Against the backdrop of the emerging security scenario, the DSCSC training curricula have been modernised with contemporary modules and the computer-assisted war-game has been played on the campus for the first time, through which the college campus has turned into a digitised one, she said.

Hasina described the 54 foreign graduates as goodwill ambassadors of Bangladesh on foreign lands. "I hope, you will remain friends of Bangladesh... you will remain as goodwill ambassadors and will never forget Bangladesh."

Focusing on the development of Bangladesh in the last one decade

under her government, Hasina said the GDP growth reached 8.15 percent and the per capita income nearly \$2,000, but the inflation rate remains at 5.4 percent.

Speaking about the poverty rate dropping to 20.5 percent from 41 percent in 2005-2006 fiscal year, she said her government wants to cut it down further. "If we can bring it down to 14-16 percent, we can declare Bangladesh as a poverty-free country," she said.

A total of 235 officers, including 125 officers from the army, 34 from the navy and 22 from the air force, and 54 overseas officers from 21 countries of the world graduated this year.

The 21 countries from where overseas officers attended the DSCSC 2019-2020 course are China, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, the USA and Zambia.

Commandant of the college Major General Md Enayet Ullah delivered the welcome speech.

The PM handed over the certificates among the graduate officers.

Senior military and civil officials and vice-chancellors of several universities were present at the graduation ceremony.

The Defence Services Command and Staff College is a prime military institution of the Bangladesh Armed Forces.

It provides professional military education to selected mid-career officers of the three services and prepares them for assumption of increasing responsibilities both in command and staff appointment.

A total of 5,253 officers, including five police officers and 1,165 overseas students from 42 countries, have so far graduated from the college.

A good initiative failing

FROM PAGE 14

Due to the lack of upkeep, many shops are on the verge of ruin, the chairman added, demanding the market be demolished as it is not running in accordance with its original purpose.

Asked about the maintenance, the chairman claimed he could do nothing.

Female traders were supposed to pay a minimal monthly rent to the UNO, through the union parishad, which could have been used for maintenance -- but nobody do this, he added.

Apart from supports from the authorities, local female traders say, a shortage of capital and noncooperation from male traders are to blame for being unable to compete in the market. Their male counterparts, however, blamed it on women's lack of experience.

Visiting the market recently, this correspondent talked to a woman, Pila Rani, who runs a small shop selling singara.

"The shop is in poor state as there has been no repair since it was first built," said Pila, who has been running the shop alongside her husband for the past decade.

Hena Rani is the other female entrepreneur in the Women's Corner.

According to her, female traders not having sufficient funds to sustain their business amid competition with influential male traders is the main obstacle.

"Satbaria Bazar itself is a rich rural market. There are many influential wholesale traders here. When we

start a small business with a meagre amount of money, we cannot survive here. We do not get any assistance from these traders," said Hena.

There are no women on the market management committee at Satbaria Bazar.

The Women's Corner is also at the literal corner of the market, where customers seldom go. The women were also not able to choose their shop location, said Hena, demanding initiatives to revive the Women's Corner.

Talking to The Daily Star, Md Abdur Rashid, president of Satbaria Banik Shamity, acknowledged the problems faced by female traders.

"The Women's Corner is located towards the back of the market, where most customers don't go. The traders there also lack sufficient funds to run profitable businesses," he said.

However, he also claimed female traders who previously ran the shops did not have enough patience to build up their business and abandoned the place.

Over 200 shops in the Satbaria Bazar run smoothly, with the exception of the Women's Corner. Failing to run for over a decade now, it has become a deadweight in the market.

Without support from the grassroots level, the administration alone cannot ensure success of good initiatives, said Sujit Debnath, Sujanagar upazila nirbahi officer.

"It was a good initiative to promote female entrepreneurs, but wasn't effective due to a lack of sufficient support from locals," the UNO said.

Tigers staring

FROM PAGE 1

Islam before completing his hatrick by removing Mahmudullah Riyad and creating history in the latter stages of the day.

The first innings' top-scorer Mohammad Mithun was the last batsman to fall on the day as Yasir Shah got him for a duck, leaving skipper Mominul Haque, unbeaten on 37, looking helpless at the other end.

However, Bangladesh replied well with the bat despite losing opener Saif Hasan after scoring 16. He was undone by Naseem's fiery pace but the experienced Tamim Iqbal showed glimpses of hope and looked compact until he was trapped leg before by Yasir on 34.

Skipper Mominul Haque tried to hang on from the other end until Naseem's brilliance later on in the day eradicated all the hard work the Tigers had done.

The Tigers started the day well and managed to bundle Pakistan out for 445 after they had resumed the day on 342 for 3.

Abu Jayed, who scalped two wickets on the first day, dismissed centurion Babar Azam in the first over of the day for 143. Ebadat Hossain then removed Asad Shafiq, who added just five runs to his overnight score of 61.

Haris Sohail then took charge but was dismissed after scoring 75 runs by left-arm spinner Taijul Islam while pacer Rubel Hossain cut off the tail, picking three wickets in the end.



Throwaway plastic products and other garbage have nearly stopped the water flow of Kanachharea canal in Sylhet city. This may lead to waterlogging in some areas in the coming monsoon. The photo was taken at Tilagarh yesterday.

PHOTO: DWOHA CHOWDHURY

24,074 incidents, Tk 330cr loss

FROM PAGE 1

same electric cable, which may lose temper over time, for years."

Of the fire incidents last year, 39 percent was caused by electric short circuit and 18 percent by stove fire, said the report released recently.

The number of casualties also went up last year. At least 185 people lost their lives and 586 people were injured in fire incidents last year. The death toll was 130 in 2018.

Seventy people were killed in the Chawkbazar tragedy -- the highest in a single fire incident -- in February last year. Besides, devastating fire tore through FR Tower in the capital's Banani, Bhasantek slum, a plastic factory in Keraniganj and a fan factory in Gazipur.

Sazzad said it is possible to bring down the number of fire incidents if

electrical equipment is checked and replaced periodically.

"Developed countries maintain this practice regularly. We should introduce this system here," he told this newspaper.

According to Bangladesh National Building Code, fire exit routes have to be designed in a way that they remain unobstructed. A building will have fire-rated doors and be connected directly to the road for easy access and exit.

The Fire Service DG said fire incidents have been rising due to a lack of awareness and also unwillingness to put in place fire safety measures.

"We must understand that these measures have to be taken for the sake of our life and property."

According to the Fire Service data,

of the fire incidents last year, 4,153 were caused by burning cigarettes. This means fire from burning cigarette butts accounts for 15 percent of the total fire incidents, making it the third biggest cause of fire.

The report said fire originating from burning cigarettes caused damage to properties worth around Tk 18 crore last year.

It also mentioned that fire incidents increased more than thrice in the last 15 years.

The number of such incidents was 7,140 in 2004.

Last year, fire broke out in 997 industrial units and 165 garments factories. Besides, 174 fire incidents occurred in slums in Dhaka, Chattogram and Rangpur, show the data.

Asked about fire prevention,

First Bangladeshi infected in Singapore

FROM PAGE 1

The control room of the DGHS published the report a day after authorities stepped up surveillance in all land ports and seaports in line with the three international airports.

"We have initiated this surveillance reporting system from today [Sunday]. This will help us monitor every inbound passenger to prevent novel coronavirus from entering the country," Dr Ayesha Akter, assistant director of the control room of DGHS, told The

Daily Star.

Earlier on Thursday, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) at the DGHS sent 35 hand-held infrared thermometers, devices that check body temperature without coming in contact with patients, to all ports across the country.

Meanwhile, Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Professor Meerjady Sabrina Flora in her daily briefing urged everyone, especially journalists and doctors, to protect the patients'

privacy.

"Maintaining confidentiality of the patients suspected, tested or confirmed as infected is important. Otherwise, their personal and social security could be hampered," the IEDCR director said.

She also urged people not to panic about the virus.

Meanwhile, the student who returned from China's Anhui province 11 days ago and was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital with breathing problems, is

Ex-AL leader murdered in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A former union-level Awami League leader was murdered in Noakhali's Companiganj upazila on Saturday night.

Sohrab Hossain, 50, was the former president of Char Elahi Union's Char Balua ward in the upazila.

Abdur Razzak, chairman of the union, said some 10 criminals wearing masks beat up Sohrab and then slit his throat when he was returning home.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Noakhali General Hospital morgue for an autopsy early yesterday, said Rabiul Haque, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Companiganj Police Station.

Police are trying to identify the killers, he said.

Mega plan

FROM PAGE 1

Responding to a question from AL MP Benjir Ahmed from Dhaka-20, the state minister said that the government had taken initiatives to build 39 different types of water vessels for the inland route.

Sazzad said they regularly organise awareness programmes in various big establishments and also in slums.

"This year, we will intensify the programmes."

He said they are keeping fire-fighting vehicles at major points in the capital to reduce the response time.

Talking to reporters yesterday, Motaher Hoshan Khan, president of Electronics Safety and Security Association of Bangladesh (ESSAB), said, "The government has taken initiatives to turn Sylhet and Chattogram into smart cities. But no such initiative has been taken for the capital."

It is high time the government put in place a modern safety and security system to deal with fire incidents all over the country, he added.

now well.

He has no symptom of novel coronavirus, the medical team confirmed after completing his health check-up, our correspondent reports.

On Saturday evening, cough and blood samples from the patient was sent to IEDCR in Dhaka for tests.

"We will inform about the test result as soon as we get it in hand," ASM Alamgir, principal scientific officer of IEDCR, told The Daily Star.

"Even if reported cases might be peaking, we don't know what is happening with unreported cases," he said.

Major cities and capitals announced new travel restrictions as concern over the spread of the virus increased.

Chinese-ruled Hong Kong introduced a two-week quarantine on Saturday for all people arriving from the mainland, or who have been there during the previous 14 days. Malaysia expanded its ban on visitors from China.

France issued a new travel advisory for its citizens, saying it did not recommend travelling to China unless there was an "imperative" reason. Italy asked children travelling from China to stay away from school for two weeks voluntarily.

The latest patients outside China include five British nationals staying in a mountain village in Haute-Savoie in the Alps, French health officials said, raising fears of further infections at a busy period in the ski season.

Princess Cruises, operator of the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined off the coast of Japan, said a further six people had tested positive, bringing the total cases aboard to 70.

Seven suffer burn injuries in iron factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven workers suffered burns when they were melting iron at a steel mill in Kadamtali area of the capital early yesterday.

The injured are: Russel, 32, Redwan, 27, Sohagh, 25, Babar, 35, Dulal, 30, and Shujon, 27. They were melting iron at Kamal Steel Mills.

Shanjit Mondal, a supervisor of the factory, said the workers were melting iron in the night-shift. Around 3:30am, the melted iron bubbled and splashed on the workers, leaving them injured.

They were rushed to the burn unit at Dhaka Medial College Hospital.

Of the seven, three were discharged after treatment.

Cooperation, Tunku Abdur Rahman, Bangabandhu offers full cooperation to the representatives of the Secretary-General to visit Mirpur, the non-Bengali suburb.

Bangabandhu says, "I should like to assure your excellency that life and property of non-Bengali population here are secure, in spite of many provocations over the past nine months. The feeling against them is now so bitter that for their protection the government must maintain for some time the protective cordon, but there is nothing to hide and the Secretary General's representative will be extended full cooperation to visit Mirpur.

In contrast to the situation here, Bengali residents in Pakistan are living in a state of terror and are being subjected to harassment and personal indignities. It is a matter of regret that you haven't felt it necessary to say anything about the position of the

Bengalis in Pakistan.

I have also to recall with regret that during the last nine months when three million Bengalis in Bangladesh were killed in cold blood by the West Pakistani forces, you didn't raise your voice to stop the killings of innocent Muslims and members of other communities in the second largest Muslim state."

40,000 BENGALIS TO BE REPATRIATED

About 28,000 Bengali officials and men belonging to defence services of Pakistan and another 12,000 Bengali civil servants in the Pakistan Central Government will be soon allowed to go on leave for repatriation in Bangladesh, informs official sources of the Pakistan government.

SOURCES: February 11, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Daily Ittefaq, Azad, Morning News, The Bangladesh Observer and Purbodesh.

"Recognise first, then talk"

FROM PAGE 14

sovereign independent state. JAPAN ACCORDS RECOGNITION Japan today recognises Bangladesh. Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato has sent a telegram to Bangabndhu felicitating the birth of the new South Asian nation and praying for its future development.

Welcoming the Japanese government's decision to recognise Bangladesh, Bangabandhu says, "I have no doubt that the areas of cooperation between our two countries will steadily expand in the future to the mutual benefit of our two peoples. On behalf of my government and people, I take this opportunity to extend our warm greetings and felicitations to the government and people of Japan."

NON-BENGALI'S LIFE, PROPERTY SECURE

In a telegram to the Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic

'Dr Kamal not using political language'

Says Quader about his comment on ousting govt

UNB, News

Referring to Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain's Saturday's comments on ousting the government, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said Dr Kamal is badmouthing instead of speaking in political terms.

"Not only politicians, but people of the country also got hurt by his comments. The comment -- to kick the government out of power -- is a slang, not political language," he said.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, was talking to reporters after inaugurating

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A boy patiently waits for food at T&T Boys' High School in Banani. His home was among the few hundreds that burnt to ashes in a fire at T&T slum on Sunday. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

LAND OWNERSHIP ON BANK OF TURAG Settle dispute in 15 days: HC to BIWTA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to settle within 15 days the application filed by 62 families challenging BIWTA's action for establishing pillars in their land adjacent to the bank of Turag river in Savar.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the order following a petition filed 62 families, led by one Jonayed Ahmed.

Following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), the HC in June 2009 had directed the government to demarcate the boundaries of four rivers around Dhaka -- Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakhya and Balu -- through conducting cadastral survey and revisional survey.

Accordingly, BIWTA started building pillars on the boundaries of the rivers including Turag.

On November 27 last year, Jonayed Ahmed submitted an application to BIWTA claiming that the authorities concerned had started establishing pillars on their [the families] land at Bordeshi Mouja in Savar beyond the boundary of Turag River.

In the application, they requested BIWTA not to put pillars on that land, court sources said.

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DHAKA AIRPORT

Luggage thief caught in act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

His "profession" involved taking advantage of the emotions of expatriates, mostly migrant workers.

Whenever expats -- leaving years of woes behind and overwhelmed with excitement -- arrived in the country, he was on the move.

Absent-minded expatriates were his prey. At the first sign of someone preoccupied with the bliss of finally returning home, he got to work.

He stole their handbags and small luggage that store the expats' valuables.

Abdul Qadir (45) had been doing this for months at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, but his luck finally ran out as he was caught red-handed on Friday.

"After receiving complaints, we increased surveillance and arrested him. We was sentenced to one year's imprisonment upon confession," Ahmed Zamil, executive magistrate at the airport, who led the drive, told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Form special cell to combat coronavirus

Says Law and Life Foundation in legal notice to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law and Life Foundation, a rights organisation, yesterday sent a legal notice to the government, requesting it to take necessary measures including formation of a high-powered monitoring cell within 48 hours in order to combat coronavirus.

"It is high time to form a high-level monitoring cell comprised of doctors, paramedics, civil administration, police administration etc to combat coronavirus. This cell shall oversee, evaluate and monitor the status of coronavirus in Bangladesh. The cell shall have branch offices in every district of Bangladesh," it said in the legal notice.

Advocate Humayun Kabir Pallab served the legal notice on behalf of Law and Life Foundation urging the authorities concerned to take immediate and appropriate steps across the country, including special measures at airports, land ports, seaports and hospitals to prevent coronavirus.

In the legal notice, the organisation said it is necessary to make sufficient numbers of masks, relevant equipment and accessories available in order to prevent the spread of the virus in Bangladesh.

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In the realm of allegories

Poetry thrives on loyal fan base

MATHEWS CHIRAN

While literary fiction remains the heavyweight at Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a loyal fan base has kept poetry well and truly alive at the month-long book fair.

"Whenever you read poetry, you can feel the passion in every line a poet has put in. It resonates with me so strongly, that I can feel the emotions in every rhythm of a poem," said Nadia Haque, a final-year Dhaka University student, whose favourite book is Syed Shamsul Haque's "Nuroldiner Sara Jibon."

While some prefer works of prominent poets, others are more keen to explore the endeavours of new poets.

"I gifted my wife a book by a new poet, as she is a poetry lover and wanted to explore new authors," said Sariful Alam, holding hands with his partner Shemonty Kabir.

"I love to read poems of Helal Hafiz, Nirmalendu Goon, Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah and many more. This year I have decided to try out new poets," said Shemonty, holding a copy of "Obhijog Nei" by Rudra Goswami.

Anindya Prokash has published a total of 110 new titles, of which 15 are of poetry. The books include -- "Selected 10 Poems" by Sabina Yeasmin, "Nil Projapati" by Mehebab Haque and "Obak Johtsna" by Mizharul Islam.

Regarding demand of the books, its publisher Md Afzal Hossain said, "Novels record the highest sales. However, poetry books also compete in the race of reaching readers."

Nirzhar Noishabdya, a promising writer and poet, says, "Poetry doesn't express anything directly. It is the readers who should decipher it. It is also like painting and you can interpret it with your own experience," he said while talking about poetry.

Nirzhar has published 16 books so far, of which six are of poetry. His first book of poems was published in 2011.

Regarding readership of the literary form, he said, "As poetry uses lot of metaphors, it is not very popular among masses. However there are loyal readers. They are the ones who buy poetry books and support us."

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Even on weekdays, the book fair is seeing a steady stream of visitors, looking for a wide range of publications.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



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Northern University holds 5th convocation

CITY DESK

The fifth convocation of Northern University Bangladesh (NUB) was held yesterday on its permanent campus in the capital.

Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni presided over the ceremony on behalf of President Abdul Hamid. Ayman Sadiq, CEO of 10 Minute School, and Hussain Elius, CEO of Pathao Ltd, were convocation speakers.

Prof Abu Yousuf Md Abdullah, chairperson of NUB Trust, and Prof Anwar Hossain, vice chancellor of NUB, also addressed the event.

Undergraduate and graduate degrees were conferred to 3,435 students from different disciplines, and ten meritorious students were awarded gold medals for their excellent results.

Dr Mashiur Rahman, adviser to the prime minister on economic affairs, was the guest of honour, and Prof Kazi Shahidullah, chairperson of University Grants Commission, was the special guest.

All deans, heads of departments, teachers, administrative staff, journalists, educationists and VCs of different universities attended the programme.



DPS STS School Dhaka recently organised a road painting programme around its junior section premises, where Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor-elect Atiqul Islam and his wife Shaila Shagufta Islam were present. DPS STS Principal Harsh Wal, Vice Principal Madhu Wal and Junior Section Head Sumona Karim were also present. All third-graders of the school participated in the programme and drew alpona to beautify the street.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Nilufar Khanam passes away

CITY DESK

Nilufar Khanam, wife of martyred freedom fighter Sergeant Shamsul Karim Khan, passed away on January 31, said a press release.

She was undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka.

Nilufar was born on April 19, 1935 at Narsingdi's Balushai. She left behind three sons, four daughters, grandchildren, and countless well-wishers.

She was involved in movements that aimed to uphold the values of the Liberation War. A doa mahfil was arranged at Cantonment Board Jame Masjid last Friday in her memory.



Khaleda Akhter's death anniv

CITY DESK

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Prof Khaleda Akhter Banu, former head of Bangla at Abujar Gifari College.

On the occasion, Khaleda's son Tomal Mannan, a Bangladeshi expatriate in New York; and daughter Lopita Mannan, VP of Mercantile Bank; have requested all to pray for eternal peace of the departed soul, said a press release.

Banu, an organiser of the liberation war, is wife of Prof Abdul Mannan, former MP and Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Cultural Affairs.



Dr Kamal

FROM PAGE 3

the three newly-renovated bridges in Gazaria, Munshiganj.

In reply to a query from reporters about the release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Obaidul Quader said, "The case she was convicted in is not a political one... There is no scope of releasing her based on political consideration."

The ruling party leader also warned that if BNP resorts to anarchy and arson attack in the name of movement to free their leader Khaleda Zia, it will be dealt with an iron hand.

During yesterday's event, the road transport and bridges minister inaugurated the renovated Kanchpur, Meghna and Meghna-Gumti bridges.

In the realm

FROM PAGE 3

DAILY STAR BOOKS

While not its most common form of publications, Daily Star Books also released a new collection of poetry, its first, available at stall no 491-492.

"InnerState" is a new collection of poems by Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, professor of English at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

The themes of the book revolve around identity, love, sensuousness, freedom, complexity of city life, nature, nostalgia, grief and suffering.

Suspended SI claims

FROM PAGE 5

On August 8, 2014, the victim's younger brother, Imtiaz Hossain Rocky, filed a case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka.

On February 17, 2015, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Maruf Hossain conducted a judicial inquiry, found involvement of Zahid and the other four, and submitted a judicial inquiry report to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka.

On April 17 in 2016, the court framed charges against the five.

Form special cell

FROM PAGE 3

All public and private hospitals should be well-equipped and ready for possible coronavirus-affected patients, it said in the legal notice.

Barrister Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star that a writ petition will be filed with the High Court seeking necessary order if the government does not take appropriate steps to prevent the possible outbreak.

Luggage thief

FROM PAGE 3

The magistrate said they had video footage from which it was clear that Qadir was stealing handbags of three expats.

Qadir was not an employee of the airport but he used to stand near the canopy and pretended that he came to receive a relative, he added.

Qadir is now in Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

Settle dispute in 15

FROM PAGE 3

As BIWTA did not respond to the application, the 62 families led by Jonayed submitted a supplementary petition to the HC on January 20 this year, seeking necessary order.

Advocate Fahad Mahmud appeared for the 62 families, while Advocate Manzill Murshid argued for HRPB and Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder represented the state.

Foreign currency

FROM PAGE 5

Kharana union.

"We had information that three bikes were heading to Chattogram. With an aim to dodge police, they joined a group of NGO employees who were coming to port city from Cox's Bazar on bikes. When law enforcers stopped the motorbikes, three of them tried to flee," he said.

Jahangir said police were able to stop two bikes and arrest the four while another carrying three managed to escape. "Searching their bags, police seized the pills and the money," he added.

"The group has strong links in Cox's Bazar and Dhaka. They collected the pills from Teknaf," said the police official, adding that the consignment was supposed to be handed over to another group in Feni to take those to the capital.

SP Rashidul said police were investigating the source of the seized pounds.

A case was lodged in this connection with Patiya Police Station.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Herby JSC EC ASE notifies on holding of an open single-stage request for proposals in non-electronic form for a right to enter into a contract for Performance of construction and erection works for Lot No. 3000 'Unit 2. Sites, motor roads. Comprehensive CEW' Rooppur NPP. The documentation can be found at the official website of State Corporate 'Rosatom' <http://zakupki.rosatom.ru>, procurement No. 200205/0536/095.

LAND FOR SALE

At **Gulshan-2** (North) opposite of American club & lake park **8 kathas** land with modern building. Connected by two roads. Rajuk provided residential plot.100% hassale free. Single Owner. Pls. Cont: **Monjur: 01711-877837**

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

হিটম্যান হিসোর্সেস ডিপার্টমেন্ট-১ (রিক্রুটমেন্ট এন্ড আউটসোর্সিং ইউই) প্রধান কার্যালয় ঢাকা

২২ মার্চ ১৪২৬
০৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১৯/২০২০

ব্রম সংশোধনী

গত ০৮-০২-২০২০ইং তারিখে দি ডেইলি স্টার পত্রিকার ৪নং পৃষ্ঠায় "বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক "অফিসার (এঞ্জ ক্যাডার পাবলিকেশন)" পদে নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড করা প্রসঙ্গে" শিরোনামে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির ০২নং ক্রমিকের শেষের লাইনে "জাতীয় সৈনিক পরীক্ষায় বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে" এর স্থলে জাতীয় সৈনিক পরীক্ষায় বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে প্রকৃত হবে। এই অববদানভাজনিত ক্রটি মার্শাল।

জিডি-১০১

17th death anniv of Badiul Alam

CITY DESK

Today is the 17th death anniversary of Advocate Badiul Alam, a freedom fighter and politician.



Born in 1926, Badiul completed his undergraduate degree from Calcutta University in 1946 and followed it up with an LLB from Dhaka University.

During the Liberation War, he was an Awami League regional president in Chattogram, and also later took on the responsibility of the Socialist Party Chittagong south division president.

In 1972, he became vice president of the Lawyers' Association and in 1981 became the association's president. He was also on committees for societies, and throughout his life, spearheaded the activities of Kodom Mubarak Muslim Orphans Feeding. Aside from these, in his own village, he helped set up Fatehnagar Sharifunessa Nazir Uddin Girls High School.

To mark the occasion, Advocate Badiul Alam Memorial Foundation will organise a milad mahfil at Chattogram's Chandanaish upazila.

Three killed in road, train accidents

STAR REPORT

At least three people were killed in road and train accidents in three districts yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Dinajpur town, Rakib Hossain (25) was killed as a truck ran him over when he fell off his motorbike after colliding with a roadside log in Housing Mor area.

The accident left him dead on the spot. Police seized the truck, but its driver and helper fled.

In Panchagarh, Bimal Chandra Roy (22) was killed after a tractor hit the battery-run auto-rickshaw carrying him at Laxmirhat village of Debiganj upazila.

Police said the accident occurred around 6pm, leaving Bimal dead on the spot. On information, law enforcers recovered the body, seized the tractor and detained its driver. A case was filed with the police station in this connection.

MAN DIES IN TRAIN ACCIDENT

A youth was killed under a train near Dewanhat footbridge in Chattogram around noon. Belal Hossain (26) was a student of political science at Chattogram City College, said police. On information, the law enforcers recovered the body lying beside the rail track and sent it to Chittagong Medical College for autopsy.

Expo on fire

FROM PAGE 5

ESSAB, read out the event schedule.

Fire safety equipment of various brands from 25 countries including USA, UK, Germany, Italy, Taiwan, Turkey, UAE, Portugal, Spain and Poland will be displayed in 75 stalls at the expo.

Modern and latest technologies of fire protection, fire detection, CCTV and video surveillance, building management, access control, public address system, rescue and disaster management will be displayed there.

For the first time in ESSAB's journey, nine organisations in three categories -- commercial, industrial and residential -- will be awarded for fire safety excellence. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan will be present at the award ceremony.

Booths will be installed at the venue for free registration. Besides, participants can also register through the event's website: <https://www.ifsse.com/>

Death Anniversary

Today is the 4th Death Anniversary of Shamim Akhter (Wife of Retd. Group Captain S M Kalim Ullah), Ex Additional Commissioner of Tax. We remember her with deepest sorrow, love & respect on the occasion and pray to almighty Allah for peace & happiness of her departed soul.

Husband and family members of the Deceased.

D-32

জমি বিক্রয় জমি বিক্রয় জমি বিক্রয়

ঢাকা-আরিচা মহাসড়ক সন্নিকটে মানিকগঞ্জ জেলার শিবালায় উপজেলাধীন দক্ষিণ ডালাইল ও আমডালা মৌজায় ২০ (বিশ) একর জমির উপর একই সীমানার মধ্যে দ্বিতল ভবন সহ সম্পূর্ণ নিরুদ্বাক মালিকানায় চালু অবস্থায় একটি আধুনিক বানিজ্যিক মৎস্য খামার বিক্রি হইবে। ২০ ফুট পাকা সড়কের পার্শ্বে সম্পূর্ণ বন্যা মুক্ত অত্যন্ত মনোরম প্রাকৃতিক পরিবেশ বেষ্টিত খামারটিতে বানিজ্যিক ভাবে রিসোর্ট, গ্যুটিং/পিকনিক স্পট, শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান, কনভেনশন সেন্টার, শিল্প কারখানা স্থাপনের জন্য অত্যন্ত উপযোগী। অগ্রহী প্রকৃত ক্রেতাগণ যোগাযোগ করুন।

মোবাইলঃ ০১৭১৬-০০২০২১, ০১৭১৩-০৩৮২১২।

Bangladesh Development Bank Limited

(A State Owned Bank)

Human Resource Management Department
Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000

Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

Bangladesh Development Bank Limited (BDBL), a state owned bank, is going to recruit an experienced **Chief Financial Officer (CFO)** on contractual basis under the following terms and conditions:

01. Position:
Chief Financial Officer (CFO) in the rank of General Manager (Finance & Accounts Division)
Offered for Bangladeshi Nationals only. It's a senior executive position and requires to report directly to the Managing Director & CEO.

02. Educational Requirements:
The candidate must be a Chartered Accountant (CA)/Cost Management Accountant (CMA)/Certified Financial Analyst (CFA).

03. Experience:
The candidate must have at least 12 (twelve) years experience in Bank/Financial Institution with at least 3 (three) years experience on Accounts of Bank and Taxation. In addition, the candidate must have experience in banking, accounting, financing and auditing activities of reputed commercial banks/ financial institutions. Experience in the executive level in any reputed commercial bank is preferable. Candidate must have clear idea about the function and major structure of financial statements of a commercial bank and in depth knowledge of Computerized Systems/ERP (Enterprise Resources Planning) implementation experience and clear knowledge about Core Banking System, the Company Act-1994 and The Bank Company Act-1991 (with amendments), BRPD & DOS circulars of BB, CRR, SLR, CAMELS and capital adequacy calculation under Basel-II & III, IFRS/IAS in a bank, Deferred Tax etc.

04. Age Limit:
Maximum age 57 years.

05. Job Nature:
Full Time.

06. Contractual Period:
Initial contract period will be 02 (two) years and next extension may be considered on the basis of yearly performance.

07. Remuneration:
Negotiable

08. Job Location:
Bangladesh Development Bank Limited
Head Office
8, Rajuk Avenue, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000.

09. Application Instructions:
If you are confident, please send application addressed to the Managing Director & CEO, Bangladesh Development Bank Limited, Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000; along with your updated CV & 2 (two) copies of passport size photograph.

10. Deadline for Submission of Application:
27 February, 2020.

TO VIEW MAJOR JOB DESCRIPTIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES AND DELIVERABLES IN DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
(www.bdbl.com.bd)

Khandaker Rakib Hossain
Deputy General Manager
Phone: 9556750
E-mail: rakib.hussain@bdbl.com.bd

GD-264

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD E/M Division-1, Chattogram
Phone: 031-723125

Memo No. 5-121/1739 Date: 09/02/2020

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal:

Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing date & time	Closing date & time
424210	Supply of installation of 15 Nos. Desktop Computer for new computer lab of RPATC, Chattogram	09-Feb-2020 22:00:00	25-Feb-2020 11:00:00
420709	Providing and installation of 300 KVA substation, 1 No. 8 KW solar panel, 100 KVA generator, Pump motor, Lighting arrester, PABX/Intercom & others related electric works for building No-127 Panchlailash & Providing and installation of 500 KVA substation, 1 No. 10 KW solar panel, 150 KVA generator, Pump motor, Lighting arrester, PABX/Intercom & others related electric works for building No-38 Katalganj, Chattogram under the project Title Construction of Residential Flat and Dormitory Building Abandoned House in Chittagong City.	10-Feb-2020 22:00:00	08-Mar-2020 11:00:00
408716	Repair, Temporary lighting at adjacent area and Renovation works of Chattogram Circuit House on the occasion of the arrival of the Honorable President.	10-Feb-2020 22:00:00	26-Feb-2020 11:00:00

These are online tenders where only e-Tenders will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

S.M. Moynul Haque
Executive Engineer
PWD E/M Division-1, Chattogram

GD-267

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Senior Superintendent
Chattogram Central Jail
sisctq@prison.gov.bd

Memo No. 58.04.1500.111.04.018.20.1229 Date: 08-02-2020

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal.

SI No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Publishing date & time	Closing date & time
1	423036	Unnotamaner Mashur Dal (Mota)	06 Feb-2020 17:30	23 Feb-2020 12:30
2	423060	Unnotamaner Cholar Dal	06 Feb-2020 17:00	23 Feb-2020 11:30

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 Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Kamal Hossain
Senior Jail Super
Chattogram Central Jail
☎031-610762 📠630581

GD-260

ট্রলার বহর বিভাগ

বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন
জিপিও বজ্র নং ২৯, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০

মাছ ধরার ট্রলার ভাড়া সংক্রান্ত পুনঃদরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

০১।	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং	ঃ ৩৩.০৩.০০০০.১০২.০১.২২৬.১৭.৩২১ তারিখঃ ১৫/০৯/২০১৯খ্রিঃ।
০২।	দরপত্রের বিষয়	ঃ চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর, বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন (বিএফডিসি) এ রক্ষিত এক/ভি বাগদা ট্রলারটি বেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে ভিত্তিতে বার্ষিক ভাড়া প্রদান।
০৩।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ১৯/০২/২০২০খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৪।	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তি ও জমার স্থান	ঃ ক) প্রধান কার্যালয়, বিএফডিসি ভবন, ২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা। খ) চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর, বামউক, ইছানগর, চট্টগ্রাম।
০৫।	দরপত্র সিডিউল জমা দেয়ার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ তারিখ ২০/০২/২০২০খ্রিঃ সকাল ১০.০০টা হতে দুপুর ১২.০০টা পর্যন্ত।
০৬।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর, বামউক, ইছানগর, চট্টগ্রাম তারিখঃ ২০/০২/২০২০খ্রিঃ সময় সকাল ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।
০৭।	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	ঃ প্রতি সেট ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
০৮।	দরপত্র জামানত	ঃ যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক থেকে "বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা" এর অনুকূলে ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা পে-অর্ডার/ডিডি আকারে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে (ফেরতযোগ্য)।
০৯।	দরদাতা যোগ্যতা	ঃ গ) গভীর সমুদ্রে মাছ ধরার অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে হবে।
১০।	দরপত্রের সাথে যেসব কাগজপত্র/দলিলাদি দাখিল করতে হবে	ঃ ক) দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ, খ) হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত কপি, গ) হালনাগাদ আরকর পরিশোধের সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, ঘ) ব্যাংক কন্ট্রোল ৩০.০০ (ত্রিশ) লক্ষ টাকা হিতির প্রত্যয়নসহ ০৬ মাসের ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট ও ঙ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি, চ) ETIN সনদপত্রের কপি, ছ) গভীর সমুদ্রে মাছ ধরার অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্রের কপি।
১১।	নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না এবং অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।	
১২।	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

মহাব্যবস্থাপক
চট্টগ্রাম মৎস্য বন্দর
ফোনঃ ০৩১-৬১৩০০৬

জিডি-২৫৭

Foreign currency to ‘protect’ yaba!

Four held with 40,000 pills, 1,200 British pounds in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested four persons with 40,000 yaba pills and 1,200 British pounds on Chattogram-Cox’s Bazar Highway early yesterday.

The arrestees are Mojammel Haque (30), Nur Nabi (24), Hasmat Kabir Shakil (21) and Jahedul Islam Ratul (22).

Police also seized two motorbikes during the arrest at Patiya upazila. The yaba tablets are worth Tk 1.20 crore, said police.

SM Rashidul Haque, superintendent of Chattogram district police, in a press briefing said, “Carrying such foreign currency by dealers or peddlers is unusual.”

He said, “The arrestees told police that they were carrying the pounds [around Tk 1.30 lakh] in a bid to save the consignment of contraband items... they thought if they get caught or intercepted by law enforcers or some other groups during their delivery, they would use the money as bribe.”

Md Jahangir, additional superintendent of police (Sadar) who led the drive, said tipped off, they set up a check post at Mujaffarabad point of the highway under

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A family poses for a selfie with their haul from the book fair, placing themselves on a frame with a cutout of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Sylhet bookworms revel in book fair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

As readers of Dhaka throng Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan premises for the Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, bookworms in Sylhet need not lose heart.

Sylhet book fair, organised by Prothom Alo’s youth community “Bondhushava” in association with Sylhet City Corporation, has become a regular part of the city for the last few years.

The fifteen-day book fair, being held at the premises of Sylhet Central Saheed Minar area, started on February 1 and continues till February 15.

Eminent folk musician and Ekushey Padak laureate Sushma Das inaugurated the book fair, where Sylhet city Mayor Ariful Haque Choudhury and eminent personalities of the city were also present.

This year, Bondhushava honoured poet and researcher Shubhendu Imam with a lifetime achievement award.

Twenty-four publications including Prothoma, Kothaprokash, Utsho Prokashon, Onnesha Prokashon, Adorn Publications, Chaitanya and Nagri are participating at the book fair this year.

Sakib Ahmed Mitu, vice-president Sylhet Bondhushava, said, “Most readers in Sylhet do not get the feel of Ekushey Boimela. Our little effort tries to give them the boi mela vibe in the month of the language movement. We have been organising the book fair for the last four years, and plan to continue to do so in the future.”

The fair is open for all from 3pm to 9pm.

SC stays case against Nazmul Huda, wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for four weeks the trial proceedings of a 12-year-old corruption case filed against former BNP communications minister Nazmul Huda and his wife Sigma Huda.

Chamber judge of the SC’s Appellate Division Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order following a petition filed by the duo, challenging a High Court order.

The HC on February 5 summarily rejected another petition filed by them, seeking cancellation of the trial proceedings of the case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission.

Yesterday, the SC chamber judge asked Nazmul and Sigma to file a leave to appeal petition challenging the HC order.

The proceedings against them will not run for four weeks following the SC order, said ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan.

He said ACC filed the case with Motijheel Police Station on June 18, 2008 accusing Nazmul and Sigma of taking Tk 6 lakh as bribe from a contractor.

Following another petition, the HC in 2016 scrapped the case’s trial proceedings. In 2017, the Appellate Division cancelled the HC verdict.

The Special Judge Court-6 of Dhaka has framed charges of the case, Advocate Khurshid said, adding that Nazmul and Sigma are now on bail in the case. Barrister Nazmul Huda argued for themselves.

CUSTODIAL DEATH OF JONNY

Suspended SI claims innocence at court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

All five accused including a suspended sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station in their self-defence statements at a Dhaka court yesterday claimed themselves to be innocent in a case filed over custodial death of Ishtiaque Ahmed Jonny.

The five -- suspended SI Zahidur Rahman Zahid, same police station assistant sub-inspectors Qamruzzaman Mintu and Rashedul Islam, and their informants Sumon and Russell -- also demanded justice in the case.

They delivered the self-defence statements after Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge’s Court had read out charges from statements of 22 prosecution witnesses, court sources said.

Of the accused, Zahid and Sumon are in jail while the rest three are on bail.

The judge fixed February 17 for arguments in the case.

On February 8, 2014, a group of 25-26 policemen, including SI Zahid, raided a house during a wedding ceremony in Pallabi’s Irani camp area and arrested Jonny. Informer Sumon and two of his friends including Russell called police after Jonny slapped Sumon for stalking women at the programme.

Police allegedly tortured Jonny, a jhut trader, at the police station.

As he fell sick, he was admitted to a local clinic. Later, he was transferred to Suhrawardy Hospital where doctors declared him dead on July 13 the same year.

On August 8, 2014, the victim’s younger brother, Imtiaz

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Work for new Sylhet-Akhaura rail track to start soon

Says railways minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The construction work for Sylhet-Akhaura rail track will start soon, said Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon yesterday.

He made the remark while talking to journalists after visiting Bangladesh Railways’ abandoned ropeway infrastructure at Companiganj upazila in Sylhet.

The minister said, “We will discuss the issue of restarting the ropeway, and necessary steps will be taken to protect the railways’ land in the upazila.”

The ropeway was set up in 1964-1969 to carry stones from Companiganj to Chhatak upazila in Sunamganj. The project was shut down in 1994.

In recent years, the land surrounding the ropeway is being grabbed by some unscrupulous stone traders.

Later, the minister visited the country’s only state-owned concrete sleeper factory at Chhatak, which remains closed from March 10, 2018. During the visit, the minister said, “We will restart production at the factory soon.”

He also said, “The government is extending rail communication to all the districts. We will also increase numbers of train and enhance facilities.”

AK-22 rifle, ammo found in listed criminal’s house

He was arrested at Dhaka airport upon return from Qatar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday recovered an AK-22 rifle and ammunition from the residence of a top listed terrorist in port city’s Bayezid Bostami area, after his arrest in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Sarwar alias Babla, is a known close associate of another “top terror” Nurunnabi alias Maxon. Sarwar and Maxon were arrested by police earlier in 2011 in possession with five firearms including an AK-22 rifle.

Paritran Talukdar, Assistant Commissioner (Bayezid Bostami) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police, said immigration police in Dhaka arrested Sarwar on Saturday, and he was brought to Chattogram later.

“Based on his confession, police conducted a drive in his house in Khandakia Para of Bayezid and seized 30 rounds of bullets and an AK-22, and a light gun along with its four cartridges,” he said.

Paritran said Sarwar fled to Qatar three years ago. A few days ago, he was arrested by police there over a fight, and sentenced to one month jail. After completing the punishment, he was sent back to Bangladesh.”

Police said Maxon and Sarwar, activists of Chhatra Shibir, had created a reign of terror in Chattogram through different crimes including extortion and murder. The duo reportedly control extortion from aboard through cohorts.

Expo on fire safety begins in capital Feb 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-day long international expo on fire safety and security will be held in the capital’s Bangabandhu International Conference Centre from Thursday.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi is expected to inaugurate the programme. The expo will be organised by Electronics Safety and Security Association of Bangladesh (ESSAB).

Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence Director General Brig Gen Sazzad Hussain, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries President Sheikh Fazle Fahim and Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Rubana Huq will be present as chief guests.

At a press conference in the capital’s Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Motahar Hoshan Khan, president of

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The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2020, MAGH 27, 1426 BS

Stemming inflow of banned drugs and narcotics

Requires cooperation of our neighbours too

NARCOTICS kill slowly but surely and, if unchecked, can destroy entire generations. If the harmful drugs and narcotics are allowed to pervade the market and their flagrant use is not prevented, the nation is bound to suffer irreparably, a consequence that not all of us are able to foresee. But that is what is happening to the future of this country, being vulnerable from a two-pronged assault, from across our eastern as well as western fronts. In fact, the production of these harmful, sometimes psychedelic drugs has become a cottage industry in the areas in India and Myanmar bordering Bangladesh. A report published in this paper on Sunday—and there have been quite a few on this particular issue in recent times—illustrates how the holes in the border are being exploited by the drug dealers to smuggle phensedyl into Bangladesh. The report also shows how some extinct factories have been revived in India to supply the drug, which is banned there too, to Bangladeshi smugglers.

The matter is serious, and although the government has taken several steps to combat the menace—some of them draconian—the supply of phensedyl and yaba goes on unabated. In fact, it is on the rise, as the BCB seizure statistics in respect of both drugs shows. It may not be an exaggeration to suggest that for every 100 of these units seized, several hundred gets through. In this connection, one must not overlook the disturbing reality that often drugs and illicit weapons are deeply interlinked; one is bartered for the other.

The problem needs to be addressed on two fronts. Firstly, the supply chain must be disrupted and eventually destroyed altogether. And for this, we need the collaboration and cooperation of our two neighbours. The source of production at the origin must be targeted. Secondly, it needs an equal, perhaps even greater effort on our part to prevent their entry into Bangladesh including strengthening surveillance. But if the alarming nexus between the smugglers and the police, which the said report also reveals, is not broken, then the situation will not improve. Thus, while we need our neighbours' cooperation to combat the problem, we need to address our own loopholes too and make our borders completely inaccessible to drug smugglers.

A mega project that met the deadline

RHD sets a good example for others to follow

WHILE time extension and cost escalation of the various mega projects that are underway in the country has become a common phenomenon nowadays, it is a refreshing experience to learn that a mega project, undertaken by the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), has been completed on time. What's more, by completing all the work within the deadline, the project authorities have saved around Tk 1,400 crore. Under the "Kanchpur, Meghna and Gumti 2nd Bridge Construction and Existing Bridges Rehabilitation Project", three new bridges were constructed and three old bridges on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway were repaired. As per the Development Project Proposals (DPP), the cost of the project was set at Tk 8,486.94 crore initially, but after completion of all work, the cost stood at Tk 7,098.73 crore, meaning around Tk 1,388 crore was saved.

Now, let us look at the reasons behind this success. Apparently, the project could be completed on time because, according to the RHD, there was proper planning and step-by-step preparation by the Japanese authorities, the RHD, as well as the government. Moreover, the involvement of the Japanese authorities in design, funding and in all stages of implementation helped meet the deadline. Another key reason for the quick completion of the work was that a relatively small area of land needed to be acquired for the project.

As we have seen in case of many mega projects, a lot of time is wasted in land acquisition and managing the funds, which eventually delay the projects by three to four years. There were many instances where the authorities had to redesign the projects. The most recent case of delay in project implementation and cost escalation, as reported in this daily, was the rail bridge that is supposed to be built over Jamuna river. According to our report, the cost of the project has increased by 33 percent (amounting to Tk 3,216 crore) even before the start of the physical work.

However, the timely completion of the HRD project in question gives us hope that through proper planning and strict implementation, any project can be completed on time. All the government needs to do is ensure that there are no irregularities and that those in charge of the projects are efficient enough to carry out their responsibilities. Needless to say, the government can save hundreds of crores of taka just by timely completing the mega projects.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Bring gov't's bank debts under control

Finance Minister Mustafa Kamal recently said that the government had borrowed over Tk 13,27,624 crore from Bangladesh Bank and scheduled banks from January 2009 to December 2019. Within this period, it also paid back Tk 11,31,840 crore, meaning that the government's net loan now stands at Tk 1,95,783 crore. By any standard, this is a huge amount and consequently a huge burden for us as Bangladesh aims to become a middle-income country by 2021. This massive loan comes as a further disadvantage for the banking sector as it is already in a volatile state. I think the government should take urgent steps to revitalise the banking sector and also explore all possible means of revenue generation so that it doesn't have to depend too much on bank borrowing.

Md Mojammal Haque, Fatichchari, Chattogram

BANGLADESH RMG INDUSTRY

Can the new leaders build on the legacy of their predecessors?



RMG NOTES

IN family businesses, the concept of "succession planning" is well known. It is the process of identifying and developing new leaders who can replace old leaders when they leave,

retire or die.

Succession planning is vital for family businesses. Indeed, it is important for any business to be able to draw on the skills of experienced and capable employees that are prepared to assume leadership roles as they become available. Yet businesses often get it wrong in succession planning. They don't plan ahead and don't have the right people in place when the current leader decides to step down. Some businesses flounder when the founder retires.

Now let us apply these issues to the Bangladesh RMG industry. Let's say this industry is one large family business. Are we ready for the challenges of tomorrow? Are the sons and daughters of tomorrow ready to navigate the ship through uncharted waters?

These are the questions the industry is now asking itself. And I believe—and hope—we have the right answers.

First, a look back on the journey that we have made so far. The apparel industry of Bangladesh has taken huge strides since it was established in the early 1970s by our first generation of private entrepreneurs. At that time, there was no real plan as nobody knew what the future might hold. In many ways, these entrepreneurs were navigating a path without a compass, and few of them could have realised that their final destination would be the world's second largest apparel exporter.

In those 40 years, Bangladesh's RMG industry has faced many challenges and overcome numerous hurdles. It has been a remarkable journey—one without precedent, to my knowledge. The RMG industry now contributes hugely to the national economy of Bangladesh, accounting for about 84 percent of the country's total foreign earning from exports. The industry has also created employment for about four million people and is a massive contributor to the national GDP. Many have been lifted out of poverty by this industry and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to this first generation of entrepreneurs. They have

put Bangladesh on the global map.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that the development of Bangladesh as a country partly hinges upon the development of this sector. This can be a blessing as it means that we are true specialists in this area, with unrivalled global knowledge. But it also places a massive burden on this industry to get things right. We have many of our eggs put in one basket.

The RMG industry itself is at a crossroads at present, and this is where

There has been a mindset in the first generation of businessmen to stick to traditional products, processes and operations. For example, even after four decades, the apparel industry of Bangladesh is still concentrated on producing basic items. But the next generation of entrepreneurs are thinking out of the box. They are opting for value-added products by setting up in-house design, development and R&D facilities.

Most of the second-generation businessmen and women have studied

peers.

The next generation are the future. However, I also believe they can learn from the past. The entrepreneurs of yesterday did things differently but the leaders of tomorrow can learn from them. The RMG industry was built on their dream, determination, and willingness to break down barriers. Our entrepreneurs of yesteryears went out into the world and brought that world back to Bangladesh. Every major apparel brand in the world now views



The RMG industry in Bangladesh has created employment for about four million people and is a massive contributor to the national GDP.

PHOTO: REUTERS

the issue of the succession planning comes in. Who are the industry visionaries of tomorrow? Who will take the reins and guide us as we transition from a lesser developed country?

Many of the first-generation apparel entrepreneurs of Bangladesh are now handing over the helm to the next generation, often their sons and daughters. This second generation has a different mindset in many cases, and are often open to new, different ideas. They could potentially oversee a break with the past and that is not necessarily a bad thing, as the industry is changing before our very eyes.

abroad in well-known universities of the world. This meant that they got exposed to new ideas and new ways of thinking. What worked in the past will not work in the future; our whole industry needs to recognise that and the young minds are taking this message on board.

Consequently, the next generation are using modern operations, HR and new methods. They are using the latest technologies and technicalities. They possess the mentality that sustainability and transparency are inseparable parts of the business. And they believe in the idea that "knowledge is power" and are keen to share knowledge among their

PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

The coronavirus and Xi Jinping's worldview



KEVIN RUDD

IN 2012. Individuals and families across China are living in fear. Multiple Chinese provinces are under virtual lockdown. The virus has brought significant parts of the economy to a grinding halt, as firms instruct their employees to work from home. Politically, the blame game bounces between local authorities in Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak, and the central government in Beijing, with both sides mindful of the eternal principle of Chinese politics: when disaster strikes, someone must be seen to pay the price.

The wider world should show sympathy and express solidarity with the long-suffering Chinese people. These are ugly times, and the racism implicit (and sometimes explicit) in many responses to Chinese people around the world makes me question just how far we have really come as a human family. Too many people beyond China's shores seem to have forgotten another eternal principle: "No man is an island./Entire of itself."

Xi wields near-absolute political power over China's Marxist-Leninist state. Arguably, only an authoritarian regime could have pursued the draconian methods that China has in trying to control the virus since January. Only time will tell how effective these measures ultimately prove to be. What is certain, however, is that the crisis, once resolved, will not change how China is governed in the future.

To understand why, one must consider the underlying worldview that guides Xi as he seeks to realise his dream of making China the global great power of the future. When people have asked me what Xi wants, I have explained his approach in terms of ten priorities. This may best be seen as ten sets of concentric circles emanating from the party centre, or, in the tradition of the psychologist Abraham Maslow, Xi's Hierarchy of Needs.

The first priority is to keep the CPC

in power. Xi has never seen the party as a transition mechanism to some sort of democracy or semi-democracy. Rather, he sees China's unique form of authoritarian capitalism as essential for its future great-power status, and as a model that could potentially be applicable to other parts of the world.

Second, Xi believes that he must always maintain national unity, because that is central to the CPC's internal legitimacy. This is why there have been sustained crackdowns in Tibet and Xinjiang under his rule, as well as a consistent hardening of policy toward Taiwan.

The third task is to expand the economy. Xi understands that the economy's size, strength, and technological sophistication

Initiative (BRI).

Priority number five is to expand and modernise the Chinese military. Xi is overseeing the People's Liberation Army's biggest reform—in terms of military organisation, weapons platforms, and personnel—since 1949. The PLA is being transformed from an army-based institution for continental defence into a force for projecting power beyond China's borders, through expanded naval, air-force, cyber, space, and AI capabilities. Xi's stated mission is to build a world-class military "to fight and win wars."

The sixth objective is to secure benign and (when possible) compliant relationships with China's 14 neighbouring states and six maritime

critical infrastructure investment. Through the BRI, he also wants Central Asia and the Middle East, as well as Central, Eastern, and Western Europe, to become increasingly sensitised to and supportive of China's core foreign-policy interests.

Similarly, China sees large-scale market potential, not dissimilar to that of Eurasia, across the rest of the developing world, in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Hence, Xi's ninth priority is manifested in the "Maritime Silk Road," which is becoming as significant as the BRI. More broadly, China has also been successfully converting this global economic strategy into reliable G77 voting support in critical multilateral forums.

Finally, Xi wants to reshape the global order so that it is more accommodating of Chinese interests and values. China's leaders see the post-1945 liberal international order as reflecting the worldview of the victorious white colonial powers that created it. Xi considers the world of 2020 to be radically different from that of the post-war era. China has, therefore, developed a two-pronged strategy. While increasing its power, personnel, and financial influence within the existing global-governance institutions, China's leaders are also building new, China-centric institutions like the BRI and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Not everyone in the CPC's senior echelon shares Xi's worldview. There is much internal dissension and debate about whether China is overextending itself in departing from Deng Xiaoping's longstanding strategy of "hide your strength, bide your time, never take the lead." Time will tell how these debates shake out, particularly in the run-up to the party's 20th National Congress in 2022, which will make the crucial decision about whether to extend Xi's leadership term beyond previous term limits—through the 2020s and possibly beyond.

In this context, Xi's management of the coronavirus crisis at home, and of politically totemic projects such as 5G expansion abroad, assumes a critical new significance.

Kevin Rudd, a former prime minister of Australia, is President of the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York.

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are central to all dimensions of national power, including military capacity. Moreover, without long-term growth, *per capita* income will not rise, and China will fall into the middle-income trap. Sustained growth is thus also central to the CPC's legitimacy, as is the national effort to become a technological superpower, with global dominance in 5G, semiconductors, supercomputing, and artificial intelligence (AI).

The fourth goal is to incorporate environmental sustainability into China's growth matrix. In the past, such concerns were ignored. But now they, too, are central to the party's legitimacy. The Chinese people will not tolerate high levels of air, soil, and water pollution. Still, sustainability, including action to combat climate change, will always compete with priority three (economic growth), both in domestic industry and in the transnational infrastructure projects envisioned in Xi's signature Belt and Road

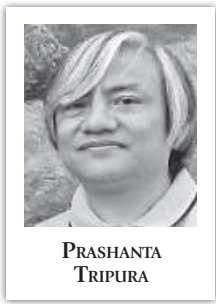
neighbours. Russia has been key to this project, having gone from being an historic adversary that occupied much of China's strategic attention to a virtual ally. On the maritime front, China has made clear that it will not yield on its territorial claims in the East and South China Seas.

Seventh, on China's eastern maritime periphery, Xi believes that he must push the United States back to the "second island chain" that runs from the Japanese archipelago through Guam to the eastern Philippines. China also wants to weaken (or sever, if possible) America's longstanding security alliances in the region, particularly those with South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines. The ultimate objective here is to enhance China's capacity to secure reunification with Taiwan—by force, if necessary.

Eighth, to secure China's western continental periphery, Xi wants to turn the Eurasian landmass into a new market for Chinese goods, services, technology, and

The Magic of Scripts

Some reflections on literacy and indigeneity



of Bangladesh, I became familiar with a myth that explained why the Tripuras did not have a script or writing system of their own. According to this myth, once upon a time, the Tripuras did have their own alphabet, the letters of which were written on the leaves of a plant. Unfortunately, one day those precious leaves were eaten up by a goat, thus the Tripuras lost their script for ever. To date, when goats are sacrificed during different rituals, Tripuras with a flair for the occult talk about how the lost letters can be discerned vaguely on the entrails of the slaughtered animals.

It turns out that myths of lost scripts are not unique to the Tripuras, but are found in different forms among many other ethnic groups in Bangladesh and beyond. For example, the Mros—a people indigenous to the Bandarban hill district of Bangladesh and some areas of Myanmar—too have a similar myth. In their case, the mythical scapegoat is a *gayal*, a bovine that had been tasked by the supreme god Turai to deliver the script and scriptures meant for the Mro people, but it ate up its payload on the way, thus depriving the Mros of a holy book of their own. Similarly, the Garos or Mandis have a myth that says that their ancestors lost their script during a long journey through a mountainous region as they got very hungry and ended up boiling and eating the animal skins on which the script had been written.

I used to think (as I indicated in a Bangla article of mine published in 2000) that myths of the above kinds could be interpreted as justification

I would like to bring up a much older anthropological notion that equated literacy with cultural advancement, and examine how similar notions continue to inform dominant views about the languages of the indigenous peoples of Bangladesh. The old anthropological notion that I have in mind has to do with the fact that in 19th-century anthropology, and in Western social thought of that time more generally, literacy and the use of writing systems were widely viewed as important measures of the evolutionary heights achieved by different cultures or civilisations. The most “civilised” societies were assumed to be those that possessed alphabets, particularly of phonetic varieties, whereas cultures lacking any form of writing system were thought of as “primitive” (e.g. see Edward Burnett Tylor’s *Primitive Culture*,

had been eaten up by a mythical *gayal*, as indicated already. In a significant development, in the mid-1980s, a messianic figure by the name of Menlay arose from among the Mros, who were among the ethnic groups that had remained most resistant to external cultural influences.

From the perspective of outsiders, until recently, one sign of the Mros remaining less acculturated was their semi-nude bodies, along with the men keeping their hair long, very low rates of literacy and heavy dependence on *jum* (shifting) cultivation. In this context, Menlay emerged as a messianic leader who not only invented a script for his people, but also came up with a religion, complete with its own written codes, which came to be known as Krama. This new religion—which prescribed, among other things, a

was also quickly picked up by NGOs and other organisations that provided material support to promote its use at various levels including in schools at pre-primary and primary levels. It is estimated that around 60 percent of Mros of Bangladesh are literate in their language (this figure probably includes individuals who learned the use of the script not from attending schools, but as part of taking part in Krama rituals). However, on the whole, official literacy rates among the Mros—measured in terms of formal schooling—still remain one of the lowest among all ethnic groups of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

There are some indications that for a long period in the past (say, over 50 years ago), the Mros used to be fairly contented and accustomed to a self-sufficient way of life. However, in the context of the recent history of the

Given the cultural pride stemming from the idea of an ethnic group having its own script, in case of groups that do not possess their “own” scripts, there have been repeated attempts by many individuals to invent new ones.

they were reluctant to take Menlay in, but relented at his persistence (he camped out on the school compound where he had gone on a fast). However, by around 1984, he lost interest in school as well as in worldly affairs, and went away on a quest that would lead to the Krama script and religion by 1985. Within a year and a half of his dramatic revelation of the Krama script and religion, he “disappeared”, not to be seen or heard from again so far, though his followers believe that he will return one day.

Now the Mros have their script alright, but their lands continue to be grabbed by powerful interest groups of all kinds. They also continue to face increasing levels of poverty and violence, and there is an indication that some of them reorganised into armed groups within the past decade under names like Mro National Party. In this connection, it may be mentioned that Menrum Mro, a well-known educated person who had developed computer fonts called “Riyen” for the Krama alphabet in 1996, is believed to have been a founder of one such group, but he is reported to have been killed sometime in 2012 or 2013 under circumstances that this author has not been able to find out any definite or reliable information on. If the above information about him is true, we need to ask: what are the circumstances that would drive a computer-savvy, educated Mro to take up arms?

Seen in a broader context, the story of the rise of the Mro (Krama) script is a remarkable one which has many layers that need to be examined far more deeply and thoroughly than what we can achieve in this article. There are many more questions that remain to be asked and answered. In Bangladesh, the Mros are a minority among minorities, and as yet have very low literacy rates by formal standards. Yet in a remarkable development, almost in no time they can boast of a script of their own that has a Unicode version under development. What do we make of this? Will Menlay, who disappeared after leaving behind the “Mro script”, ever return as the messiah that his followers believe him to be? Will the Mros be able to hold onto their remaining ancestral lands and their traditional livelihoods against all odds? Or does the tragic fate of Menrum Mro signal a realisation on the part of some Mros that the Krama script and religion are not the magic bullets that can protect them from the onslaught of external forces (represented and/or facilitated by the state, market and development organisations of all kinds)?

Prashanta Tripura is an academic anthropologist turned development professional.

An earlier version of this article (based on excerpts from a paper titled “Scripting Minority Identities: Nationalism and Linguistic Diversity in Bangladesh” as presented at an international seminar held in October 2015, at the University of Hyderabad) has been published on the author’s personal blog named Neolithic Musings.

Mros are a minority among minorities, and as yet have very low literacy rates by formal standards. Yet in a remarkable development, almost in no time they can boast of a script of their own that has a Unicode version under development. What do we make of this?

by non-literate cultures as to their distinctiveness vis-à-vis literate civilisations. However, more recently, I came across a more radical explanation of such stories as offered by the anthropologist James Scott. In his book *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*, first published in 2010, Scott suggests that the kinds of stories under consideration may be treated as legends that “embody a germ of historical truth” relating to societies that in many cases may be better conceptualised as having been *post*-literate as opposed to preliterate. In other words, the societies concerned may have abandoned, or deliberately avoided, literacy along with state organisation and intensive agriculture to pursue an alternative mode of being.

In this article, however, I do not seek to dwell on or add to the perspective suggested by Scott. Instead,

and Lewis Henry Morgan’s *Ancient Society*, published in 1871 and 1877 respectively).

Although the label “primitive” would soon become unfashionable as well as conceptually untenable within anthropology, it was simply replaced by categories like non-literate or preliterate that continued to reproduce, albeit in a less recognisable form, the same types of evolutionist notions and pejorative connotations that dichotomies such as “civilised vs primitive” carried with them. For example, the very term “preliterate” betrays a hidden assumption that literacy is an inevitable direction to which all societies have to move inexorably.

Given the cultural pride stemming from the idea of an ethnic group having its own script, in case of groups that do not possess their “own” scripts, there have been repeated attempts by many individuals to invent new ones. For example, as of 2000, I personally knew of three Bangladeshi Tripuras who had invented scripts for Kokborok independently. And more recently, I came across—on Facebook—two new scripts for Kokborok as invented by individuals in Tripura, India. Similarly, five Bangladeshi Garos are reported to have invented separate scripts for their language. Such attempts are actually quite common throughout South Asia and beyond, as indicated by a story headlined “Writing a new identity: Indigenous tribes across India devising scripts,” published in *The Times of India* on June 7, 2015.

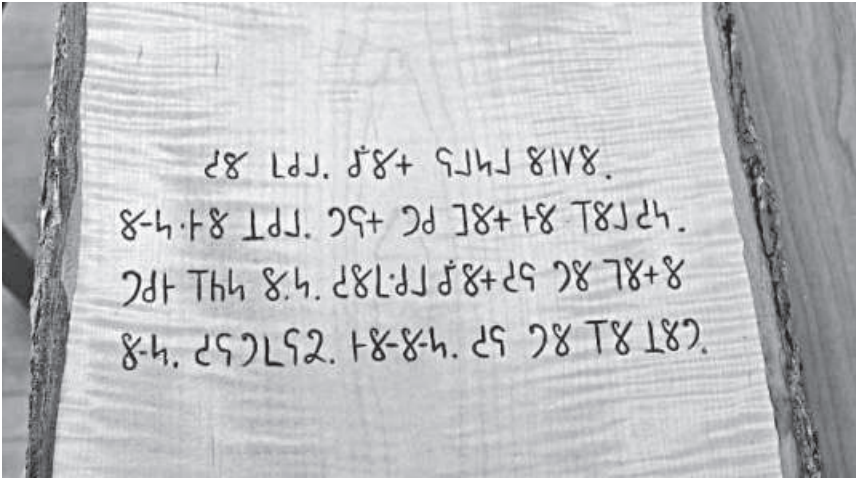
While most invented scripts fail to generate sufficient support for them to be considered seriously, there are a few notable exceptions. In Bangladesh, one such exception occurred among the Mro people, whose script and scriptures

new dress code and hairstyle that would make converts look less exotic or “primitive”—gained considerable following very quickly among the Mros (and even among many Khumis, a different ethnic group, members of which live closely with the Mros) in Bangladesh as well as across the border in Myanmar. Followers of the new religion were also expected to learn the new script, which began to be used in writing down codes of the Krama religion.

It so happens that there are also adherents of other religions—including traditional “animism”, Buddhism and Christianity—among the Mros. In case of Mros who converted to



Two of several invented scripts for Kokborok, as found on separate Facebook posts.



Krama (‘Mro’) script on wood curving.

SOURCE: LANGUAGE LOG POST ON ‘ENDANGERED ALPHABETS’ PROJECT, 2012.

Christianity, some got used to using their language in written form in a limited way using the Roman script. However, with the spread of Krama, the newly devised Mro script caught on and

when he enrolled as a first grader! The school was managed by teachers and administrators who were members of dominant ethnic groups that never tried to learn the Mro language. Reportedly,

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY



(February 10, 1996)
Kasparov versus computer chess match

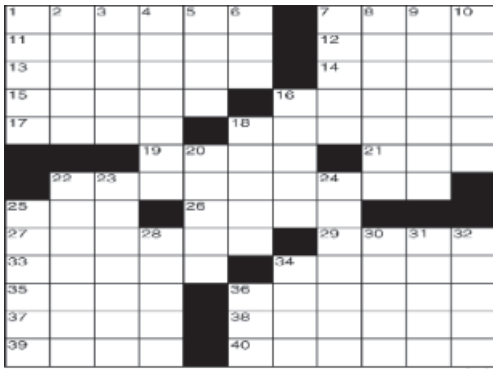
World chess champion Garry Kasparov began a six-round match against Deep Blue, a chess-playing computer built by IBM, in which Kasparov claimed a 4–2 victory (though Deep Blue won a rematch the following year).

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Implored | 27 Cleopatra’s love | 5 Blunders |
| 7 Escapade | 29 Emmy winner | 6 Week part |
| 11 Dawn goddess | Alan | 7 Defame, in a way |
| 12 Words of under-standing | 33 Designer | 8 Generally |
| 13 Depressing | Geoffrey | 9 Akin |
| 14 Hay unit | 34 Downward arc | 10 Lamented loudly |
| 15 Targets | 35 Ages and | 16 Mountain group |
| 16 Showed over | 36 Explorer Her-nando | 18 Melodra-matic |
| 17 “—Perpetua” (Indah motto) | 37 Trick | 20 UV stopper |
| 18 Greet a general | 38 Correcting aid | 22 Stop listening |
| 19 Morning’s end | 39 Proofing mark | 23 Concentrated |
| 21 Was a pioneer | 40 Current news | 24 Really bothers |
| 22 Took an evasive course | | 25 Cavalry weapons |
| 25 Heir, at times | DOWN | 28 Beginning |
| 26 Frank | 1 Scout’s reward | 30 Informal |
| | 2 Continental coins | 31 Shows fondness |
| | 3 Tremendous | 32 Left on a liner |
| | 4 Be cooperative | 34 Blood fluids |
| | | 36 Singer Shannon |

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YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS



BEEBLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



BABY BLUES

by Kirkman & Scott



WHAT'S ON



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Three Worlds
Venue: Shilpakala Gallery,
Lalmatia, Dhaka
Date: January 31 –
February 11
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm



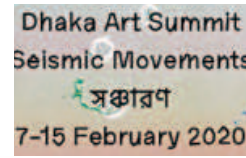
Solo Exhibition
Title: Parables of the Womb
Artist: Dilara Begum Jolly
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay,
Dhanmondi
Date: February 4 – March 28
Time: 2 pm – 8 pm (Except
Sundays)



Book Fair
Title: Amar Ekushey Boi Mela
Organiser: Bangla Academy
Venue: Bangla Academy Premises
Date: Feb 2-29
Time: 3 pm – 8 pm; 11 am – 9 pm
on weekends



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)



Art Event
Title: Dhaka Art Summit 2020
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala
Academy
Date: February 7 – 15
Time: 10 am – 8 pm

Soma Surovi Jannat on winning the Samdani Art Award 2020

Promising artist Soma Surovi Jannat won the Samdani Art Award at the Dhaka Art Summit 2020 (DAS 2020), this year. Curated by Philippe Pirotte, in partnership with Goethe Institut (Bangladesh) and Delfina Foundation (UK), the award was presented by Nasrul Hamid Bipu, State Minister for the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, during a ceremony at the Crystal Ballroom and Gardens of the Intercontinental Hotel.

ZAHANGIR ALOM

It was followed by the grand opening of the DAS 2020, at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on February 7. The international jury for the programme was chaired by Aaron Cezar, Director, Delfina Foundation, with Adrián Villar Rojas (Artist), Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev (Director, Castello di Rivoli), Julie Mehretu (Artist), and Eungie Joo (Curator, SF MoMA). For the first time ever, the jury gave out a special mention to Promiti Hossain for her delicate depiction of gender-based violence against women and children, engaging survivors, in the making of her installation, *Personal and Social* (2019-2020).

"Soma Surovi Jannat was selected for the Samdani Art Award because of her highly inventive practice of drawing, installation and painting, which is self-generative and yet socially aware. Her command of space, expanding the notion of drawing beyond the confines of the canvas and often the studio, reflects a fresh and imaginative approach to storytelling," said Aaron Cezar, on behalf of the jury. The Samdani Art Award was envisaged by art connoisseurs and collectors Rajeb and Nadia Samdani, the co-founders of Samdani Art Foundation (SAF).

Jannat's award winning work, *Into the Yarn, Out in the One*, (2019-2020), raises the question, "How do we perceive human

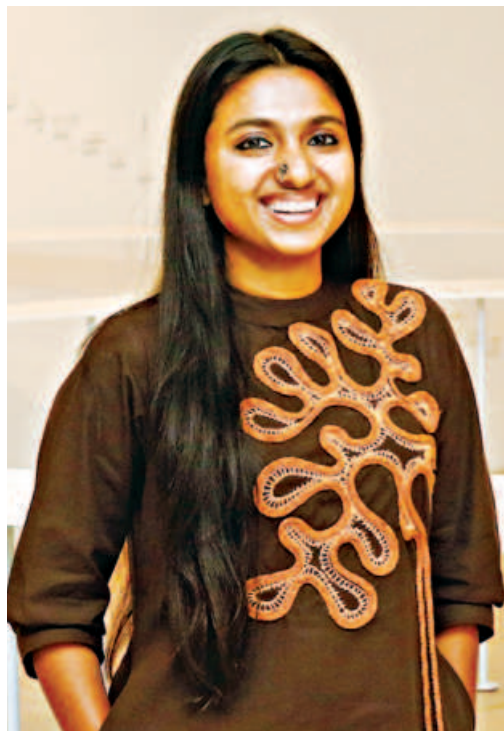


PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

existence and history living in the disjoint landscape?" "The space that I have created into my work is inspired from the two-way spiral, signifying the golden section. The sacred cut is found in nature, ranging from

the milky way of the galaxy to the DNA of our body cell. Different layers and shapes of the display confer to 'Seismic Movements', the theme of the DAS 2020," mentions Jannat. "The audience will find a kind of primitiveness in my work – one that is pure and tells stories of our own society. The smell of soil, various organic forms and simplicity are noticeable aspects of my work." She received an all-expenses paid six-week residency at the Delfina Foundation in London, which is a career-defining opportunity for the artist to widen her networks.

"SAF truly gave the 12 shortlisted artists full freedom. As a result, it was easy for all of us to proceed with our projects," explains Jannat. "When it comes to idea development and allowing artists to use space and equipment, SAF provides fantastic opportunities. The National Art Gallery building of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy is spacious and beautifully designed. Artists can make the best use of this huge space during the summit."

Jannat completed her Bachelor's from the Department of Drawing and Painting at DU and her Master's in the same discipline from Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan. "I am grateful to my teachers Shishir Bhattacharjee from DU and Sanchayan Ghosh and Soumik Nandi Majumdar from Visva-Bharati University for their support. The idyllic ambience and artistic freedom at Santiniketan also inspired me immensely," she concludes.

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

Niaz Mehedi reflects on societal norms in 'Adda Deya Nishedh'

RASHEEK TABASSUM MONDIRA

A bookworm at heart, Niaz Mehedi started writing for different platforms from a young age. In 2018, his thriller novel, *Aulad Miyar Bhaater Hotel*, published by Batighor and released at the Ekushey Boi Mela, attracted a significant number of readers. Niaz launched his second book, a short story collection, titled *Bishmoyeer Raat*, in the following year. It was published by Mawla Brothers.

His second novel, *Adda Deya Nishedh*, also published by Mawla Brothers, explores a dystopian society where gatherings and discussions are prohibited. The book, released at the



PHOTO: COURTESY

Ekushey Boi Mela this year, narrates the story of a peaceful and prosperous society, where despite everything, suicide rates are high. A newcomer questions this lifestyle, and sets out to find the reason behind it. The book is available at pavilion 29, for BDT 150.

"The young generation is going through a tough time. They are depressed and some of them are heading towards darkness. I believe that they need to connect more to other people and not to objects like smart phones. To find the right way, one needs to read a lot as well," expressed the author, who believes that people need to explore new genres and styles of writing to truly experience the beauty and diversity of literature today.

"The Ekushey Boi Mela needs to be less Dhaka centric and extend throughout all 64 districts of the country," he said.

Former Sub-Editor for the Sports section of *Prothom Alo*, Niaz is currently working as the Assistant Police Super in Pabna. He plans to write an unconventional science-fiction novel and explore artificial intelligence in his writings, moving forward.



SHAKIB KHAN'S 'BIR' to release on VALENTINE'S DAY

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Acclaimed director Kazi Hayat's 50th film, *Bir*, will release on Valentine's Day.

Produced by SK Films and starring the pair of Shakib Khan and Bubly, it

will be a celebration of a wonderful career in films for the director. "A very high budget was allotted for the film," says Shakib Khan, "and we were particular about releasing *Bir* on Valentines Day." The actor is hopeful for the turnout of the film.



'Saturday Afternoon' goes to International Vesoul Film Festival

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Winner of two independent jury awards at Moscow International Film Festival, the Mostofa Sarwar Farooki directorial *Saturday Afternoon* (Shonibaar Bikel) has been selected in the competition round of the International Vesoul Film Festival. Tibetan maestro filmmaker Pema Tsenden will be the head of the jury board, according to a press release.

The screening of the film will take place on February 15 and 16 at the festival's 'Majestic-5' hall. National Award winning actor Nusrat Imrose Tisha played an important role in the one-shot film, alongside noted actor Zahid Hasan and popular Indian artiste Parambrata Chatterjee. Farooki and Tisha will fly to Paris on February 14 to attend the screening. The award ceremony for the best film will take place on February 18.

Dissidence films, Paris, will host a special

screening of *Saturday Afternoon* on February 27.

Jaaz Multimedia, Chabial and Tandem Productions produced the film. It was showcased in many recognised international festivals – including the Munich, Moscow, Sydney and Busan Film Festivals, among others.

A total of nine films will be showcased with *Saturday Afternoon*, including Afghan film *Hava*, *Maryam*, *Ayesha* directed by Sahraa Karimi (Venice Film Festival-2019, Horizon Award category), Kazak movie *Mariam* directed by Sharipa Urazbayeva (Filmmakers of the Present Award at Locarno Film Festival 2019), Iranian director Mohammad Reza Keivanfa's *Among the Hills*, (New Current Award category, Busan Film Festival 2019), independent film *Just Like That* directed by Kislav, Sri Lankan maestro filmmaker Prasanna Vithanage's *Children of the Sun* (*Gaadi*), Philippine movie *John Denver Trending* and Korean film *A Bedsore*. These entries will fight in the Best Film Award category at the festival.

Street photography exhibition 'Forever Dhaka' concludes



SUMAIYA KABIR

Ashiqur Rahman Rean, iflix's Country Head by day and passionate street photographer by night, hosted his first solo exhibition, *Forever Dhaka*, which concluded yesterday.

Rean has been capturing this beautiful city's candid moments, despite his busy corporate schedule, for the last five years. Interestingly, to exhibit what he calls his 'first chapter', he did not choose any of the usual galleries of Dhaka. Rather, as a social experiment, he had his photographs displayed in an open floor of a building - the Atrium Zone between Chef's Table and Unimart in Gulshan

2. Most people love paintings for their homes, and through this exhibition in a public space, the photographer wanted to observe how many people would opt out to look through and actually buy such photography.

Rean's *Forever Dhaka* continued for four days, and his monochromatic shots were successful in captivating Dhaka's clumsy story, showcasing everything from its people, its noise to all of its raw emotions. His subjects included people on moving trains, the hustle and bustle of Sadarghat and children, among other things.

Future chapters will include other talented street photographers and their work on Dhaka as well, according to Rean.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ASHIQUR RAHMAN REAN

Star SPORT

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net
DHAKA MONDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2020, MAGH 27, 1426 BS



Bangladesh captain Akbar Ali proudly holds the ICC U-19 World Cup trophy after leading his side to a thrilling three-wicket victory over India in the final at Potchefstroom, South Africa yesterday.

PHOTO: ICC

Naseem hatricket leaves Tigers reeling

AFP, Rawalpindi



Teenage paceman Naseem Shah became the youngest player to record a Test hatricket as Pakistan closed in on victory against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi on Sunday.

Just when Bangladesh seemed to have fought their way back into the match at 124-2 minutes before the close on the third day, Naseem destroyed them with three wickets off successive deliveries.

Aged 16 years and 359 days, he becomes the youngest player to record a Test hat trick, besting Bangladeshi Alok Kapali who achieved the feat aged 19 in 2003.

Naseem trapped Najumul Hossain Shanto leg before off the fourth ball of his seventh over for 38, then followed up with dismissals of Taijul Islam (lbw) and Mahmudullah (caught) with the next two deliveries.

Naseem had figures of 4-26 before he left the field with a shoulder injury.

Shanto and Mominul Haque, unbeaten on 37 at the close, had added 71 for the third wicket after they lost Saif Hassan on 16 and Tamim Iqbal on 34.

At the close, Bangladesh were 126-6 and needing another 86 runs to avoid an innings defeat with two days to play.

Naseem, who burst onto the scene on Pakistan's Australia tour last year, is also the youngest fast bowler and second bowler overall to take five wickets in a Test innings.

He achieved that feat at 16 years and 307 days against Sri Lanka in Karachi last year.

Pakistan were bowled out for 445 in their first innings with Babar Azam scoring 143 and Haris Sohail 75.

Saif, playing his first Test, was on a pair after his second-ball duck

SCORES IN BRIEF

BANGLADESH: First innings 233 and second innings 126 for 6 (Tamim 34, Najmul 38, Mominul 37 not out; Naseem 4-26, Yasir 2-33)
PAKISTAN: First innings 445 all out (Masood 100, Azhar 34, Azam 143, Shafiq 65, Sohail 75; Jayed 3-86, Rubel 3-113, Taijul 2-139)

in the first innings but he started confidently to reach 16 with four boundaries before he was bowled by Naseem.

Iqbal, fresh from scoring the highest first-class score on Bangladeshi soil of 334 not out last week, was trapped leg-before by Yasir.

Earlier, Pakistan lost seven wickets either side of lunch with Sohail holding the innings together.

He struck seven fours and two sixes for his third Test half-century before holing out off spinner Taijul Islam to deep mid-wicket.

Last man Naseem was run out to end Pakistan's first innings.

A healthy 10,000-strong holiday crowd had come in anticipation of popular batsman Babar Azam scoring a double hundred.

But resuming at 342-3, Pakistan lost Azam to the first ball of the day.

Azam seemed caught in two minds whether to play or leave a length delivery from pace bowler Abu Jayed and edged to Mohammad Mithun at first slip.

Azam's 143 was his fifth Test hundred and a masterclass of attractive batting, which included a six and 18 fours.

Asad Shafiq, who put on 137 for the fourth wicket with Azam, added just five to his overnight score before he was caught behind off fast bowler Ebadot Hossain for a 65 that included nine boundaries.

Jayed was the pick of the bowlers with 3-86 while Islam finished with 2-139.



Pakistan's young speedster Naseem Shah started his second-innings onslaught with the dismissal of Bangladesh opener Saif Hasan before taking a hatricket to leave Bangladesh facing an innings defeat on the third day of the Rawalpindi Test yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BD U-19S V IND U-19S SCOREBOARD

INDIA UNDER-19S	R/B	45/6S
Jaiswal c Tanzid b Shoriful	88/121	8/1
Saxena c Mahmudul b Avishek	2/17	0/0
Tilak c Shoriful b Tanzim	38/65	3/0
Garg c Tanzid b Rakibul	7/9	0/0
Jurel run out	22/38	1/0
Veer lbw b Shoriful	0/1	0/0
Ankolekar b Avishek	3/7	0/0
Bishnoi run out	2/6	0/0
Mishra c Shoriful b Tanzim	3/8	0/0
Tyagi c Akbar b Avishek	0/5	0/0
Akash not out	1/7	0/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-10)	11	
Total: (All out in 47.2 overs)	177	
Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-103, 3-114, 4-156, 5-156, 6-168, 7-170, 8-170, 9-172, 10-177.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Shoriful	10	1	31	2
Tanzim	8.2	2	28	2
Avishek	9	0	40	3
Shamim	6	0	36	0
Rakibul	10	1	29	1
Towhid	4	0	12	0

BANGLADESH UNDER-19S	R/B	45/6S
Parvez c Akash b Jaiswal	47/79	7/0
Tanzid c Tyagi b Bishnoi	17/25	2/1
Mahmudul b Bishnoi	8/12	2/0
Towhid lbw b Bishnoi	0/2	0/0
Shahadat st Jurel		
b Bishnoi	1/10	0/0
Akbar not out	43/77	4/1
Shamim c Jaiswal		
b Mishra	7/18	0/0
Avishek c Tyagi b Mishra	5/7	1/0
Rakibul not out	9/25	1/0

Extras: (b-8, lb-4, nb-2, w-19) 33
Total: (For 7 wks in 42.1 overs) 170
Did not bat: Tanzim Hasan Sakib, Shoriful Islam.
Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-62, 3-62, 4-65, 5-85, 6-102, 7-143.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Tyagi	10	2	35	2
Mishra	7	0	23	0
Akash	8	1	33	0
Bishnoi	10	3	30	4
Ankolekar	4.1	0	22	0
Jaiswal	3	0	15	1

Result: Bangladesh U-19s won by 3 wickets (D/L method)
Player-of-the-match: Akbar Ali.
Player-of-the-series: Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Kings unveil the 'pirate' who was Messi's teammate

SPORTS REPORTER



Covering his left eye with one hand and punching the air with the right, Argentinian striker

Hernan Barcos introduced himself to Bashundhara Kings fans with his trademark pirate celebration on the big stage as the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) champions introduced their new recruit at the under-construction Bashundhara Sports Complex in the Bashundhara Residential Area yesterday.

Although it is a traditional practice in countries such as Spain, the introduction of a foreign player was quite a unique sight in Bangladesh because no Bangladeshi club had introduced a player in such way before. Bashundhara Kings made a big stage on their green practice ground with an impressive digital backdrop as numerous fans -- all wearing the number 28 allotted to Barcos -- waited. Finally, after the introduction of four other foreigners who already played the Federation Cup this season, the 6ft 2in Barcos appeared in a black and grey jacket and blue jeans.

The 35-year-old, who famously shared a dressing room with star Lionel Messi during his five-match international career, signed a 10-month contract that will allow him to play in the AFC Cup and the second phase of the BPL. And he was eager to unleash his trademark celebration on the field to bring joy to fans and the club.

"Forget about the number of goals I want to score. I want to make Bashundhara champions in the

group stage of the AFC Cup and the Bangladesh Premier League," Barcos said, ponytail flowing. He also told the tale of his trademark pirate celebration.

"The pirate celebration started because of my surname. Barcos means ship in Spanish and ships are related to pirates. I am really excited to start celebrating goals with the pirate celebration. Although a very challenging competition is ahead, I want to start the celebration not only



for me, but also for the team and fans. "As a striker, I want to score. But the most important thing is that I want to play as a member of the team and understand the players. At the moment we are all the same. The important thing is success," added Barcos.

Barcos has played in 10 countries and had offers from clubs in Brazil and Argentina, but says he chose

Bangladesh as a "personal challenge." Eventually, the conversation shifted to his more illustrious national teammate and Barcos was more than happy to speak about what would be an unforgettable moment for any player: sharing a pitch with Messi.

"Playing with Messi is the biggest achievement and something every professional desires. I felt proud to have the opportunity to firstly play with the national team and secondly,

with the player who is the best in the world. I really enjoyed the time I played with Messi. Playing with Messi was an experience I can never forget," said Barcos, who understandably chose his compatriot over Cristiano Ronaldo when the comparison was drawn. "Both players are completely different and they are big stars, but if you ask me to choose one, I choose Messi."

Hom puts Central in charge

SPORTS REPORTER



Central Zone were eyeing their first win in the Bangladesh Cricket League after skipper Shuvagata Hom struck a hundred to help post a challenging target of 330. In reply, North Zone ended the day on 156 for five, needing another 174 to win with five wickets in hand after the third day at the Sylhet International Stadium yesterday.

North were in trouble at 81 for three. Tanbir Hayder and Mushfiqur Rahim added 58 runs for the fourth wicket before the latter departed for 38, dismissed by pacer Shahidul Islam, who ended up picking

three wickets.

Earlier, Central resumed the day on 187 for five in their second innings with Shuvagata on 28.

In the other match in Cox's Bazar, East Zone replied well after being forced to follow on by South Zone and were leading by 147 runs in their second innings.

Resuming on 270 for five in their first innings in reply to South's 482, East were all out after adding just 36 to their overnight score and were asked to follow on.

However, East came back well in their second innings, riding on Pinak Ghosh's century before he was dismissed for 121 off 139 balls.

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A good initiative failing

Marketplace in Pabna for empowering rural women on the verge of ruin

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPPI, Pabna

A marketplace established in Pabna's Satbaria Bazar to promote rural women entrepreneurs is about to be closed allegedly for lack of fund and patronisation.

Named the "Women's Corner", it comprises 12 shops allotted to ultra-poor female entrepreneurs in the area. They received Tk 5,000 each to set up their businesses.

Only two of the shops are now in operation, and the rest are mostly worn-out and deserted. Two or three shops have allegedly been rented by male traders to use those as warehouses.

The Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED), aided by non-governmental organisation CARE Bangladesh, spent Tk 29 lakh to establish the lone commercial market for female traders in Pabna's Sujannagar upazila 15 years ago.

"After the shops were allotted, some of the women traders never came to the market," said Md Samsul Islam, chairman of Satbaria Union Parishad.

"Some influential male traders in the market then started to use some of the shops as warehouses. The Women's Corner is not really run by women," he added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



The people on the streets of Dhaka were just as interested in the Under-19 World Cup final as the Bangladesh fans who had packed the Senwes Park in Potchefstroom, South Africa. A projector was set up at TSC on the Dhaka University campus, where celebrations reached a climax as Bangladesh secured a famous victory over India.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DIG MIZAN'S CASE Charge framing set for March 3

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court took cognizance of charges against Mizanur Rahman, suspended deputy inspector general of police, and Khandaker Enamul Basir, suspended director of Anti-Corruption Commission, in a bribery case.

Judge KM Enrur Kayesh of Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order in presence of the two accused.

He also transferred the case to Special Judge Court-4 of Dhaka for trial and fixed March 3 to start hearing on charge framing against the accused.

On January 15, the ACC submitted a charge sheet against them for their alleged involvement in taking and giving Tk 40 lakh bribe.

The anti-graft body filed the graft case against the two for a transaction of Tk 40 lakh as bribe on July 16 last year.

According to the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Their dreams turned into despair

3 families at a loss after their breadwinners die in road crash in Oman

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Alam Ahmed had left for Oman barely six months ago, after borrowing around Tk 5 lakh from relatives and a local NGO.

He left behind his wife Nasima Begum and two children to seek his fortune, hoping a job in the oil-rich Gulf country would keep his family solvent.

Alam, 35, of Tilalin village in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila, died in a road accident in Adam area of Oman, on February 3. Two other migrant workers, Liakat Ali, 35, and Sabur Ali, 33, of Kulaura upazila of the district, also died in the crash.

Quoting Liakat's brother-in-law Jashim Uddin, who lives in Oman, his grieving family members said the three of them, among other Bangladeshis, were going home riding bicycles after work when a car

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

"Recognise first, then talk"



Bangabandhu meets Moulana Bhashani at PG Hospital on February 10, 1972.

FEBRUARY 10, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU MEETS BHASHANI

In the morning Bangabandhu meets Maulana Bhashani at PG Hospital where the Maulana was admitted the day before for treatment. Bangabandhu spends half an hour with Bhashani, sits on his bedside and enquires about his health. Seeing Bangabandhu, the Maulana exclaims: "You have come. May Allah grant you a long life."

NO TALKS BEFORE RECOGNITION

Bangabandhu rules out the possibility of any talks with Pakistani President ZA Bhutto before the latter recognises Bangladesh as a

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Five held for raping girl on stranded vessel

STAR REPORT

Coast Guard members yesterday rescued a girl from a stranded vessel and arrested five youths on charge of gang-raping the girl in Bhola's Charfesson upazila.

The arrestees are Yusuf Hasan Sardar, 21, Sohail Rana Didar, 20, Wasel Ahmed Sikder, 22, Morshed Hang, 35, and Rupom Fakir, 20. All of them are residents of different areas in the upazila.

A team of Coast Guard noticed a trawler was stuck in the Meghna river while patrolling the river early yesterday, said Alamgir Hossain, contingent commander of Coast Guard's South Zone.

When they approached the vessel, a girl's scream

SEE PAGE 8 COL 3

Building roads with recycled plastic bottles!



CNN ONLINE

Plastic milk bottles are being recycled to make roads in South Africa, with the hope of helping the country tackle its waste problem and improve the quality of its roads.

Potholes cost the country's road users an estimated \$3.4 billion per year in vehicle repairs and injuries, according to the South African Road Federation, as well as damaging freight.

In August, Shisilanga Construction became the first company in South Africa to lay a section of road that's partly plastic, in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) province on the east coast.

It has now repaved more than 400 meters of the road in Cliffdale, on the outskirts of Durban, using asphalt made with the equivalent of almost 40,000 recycled two-liter plastic milk bottles.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

7 Bangladeshis held for illegal stay in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Seven Bangladeshis were arrested in Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh for not having any valid document for staying in India, a senior police official said yesterday.

Jhansi Senior Superintendent of Police D Pradeep said, "The seven Bangladeshis were arrested during routine checking near the bus stop in Babina on Friday."

Those arrested were

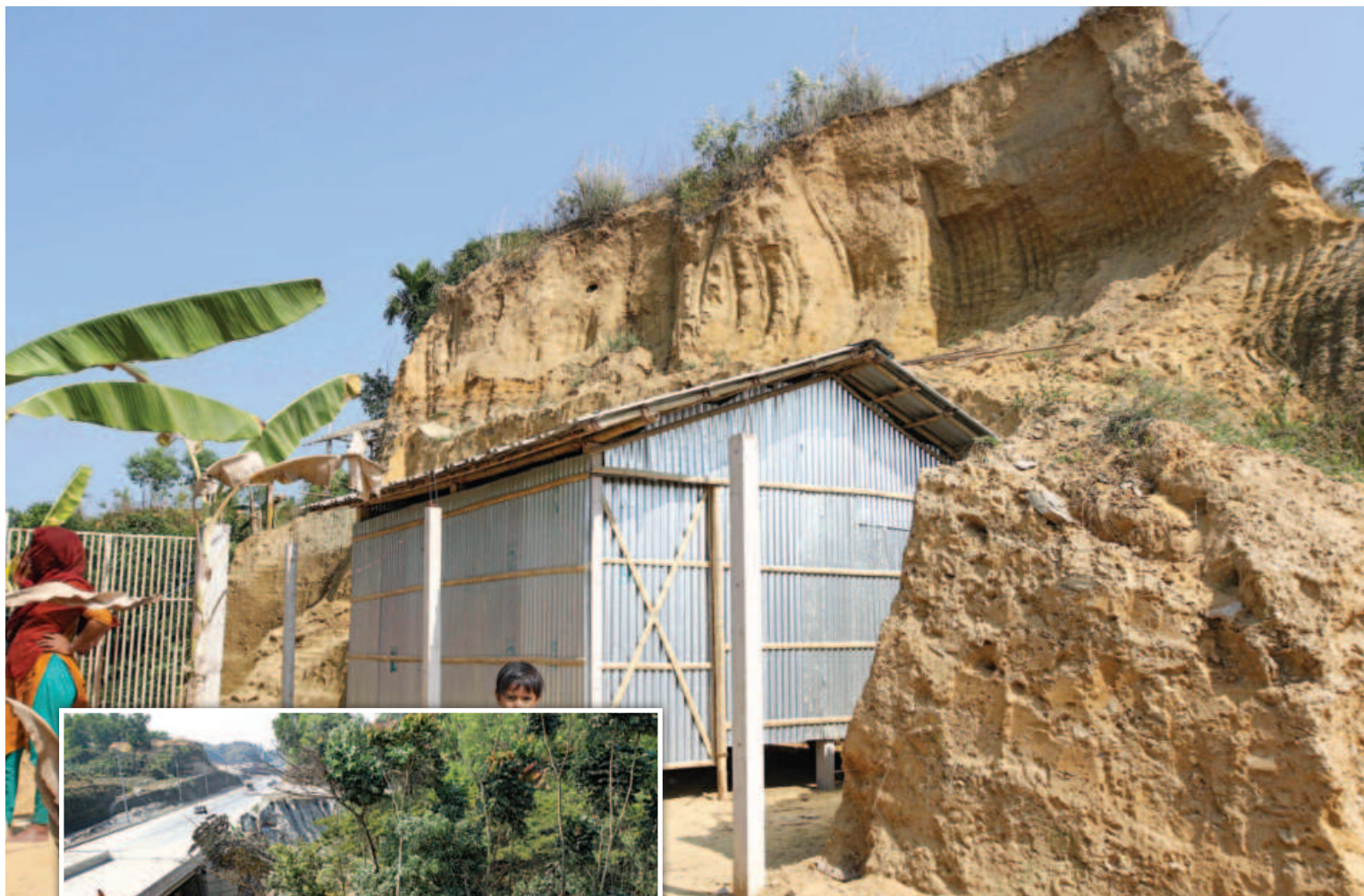
SEE PAGE 8 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 10

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5:25	12:45	4:30	5:57
JAMAAT	6:00	1:15	4:45	6:01
			7:15	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A shack literally built into a hill on the side of Bayezid Bostami-Foujdarhat road in Chattogram city. On both sides of the road, many illegal structures like this were built ignoring the risk of landslides and destroying the hills. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

NY to London in 5 hours

British Airways smashes record for quickest subsonic transatlantic flight

CNN ONLINE

A British Airways (BA) flight has broken the record for the fastest-ever subsonic flight between New York and London, reaching a top speed of more than 800mph (1,287km/h).

The Boeing 747 aircraft flew overnight from Saturday to Sunday and reached its destination in four hours and 56 minutes,

as Storm Ciara sped towards the United Kingdom.

The plane landed at Heathrow airport at 4:43am, almost two hours earlier than scheduled. Its top speed during the flight was 825mph (1,327km/h), according to FlightRadar24, an online flight-tracking service.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
পিএবিএক্সঃ ৯১০৩৯৬০-৬৯
জরুরি গ্যাস নিয়ন্ত্রণ কেন্দ্রঃ ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭-৬৮, ৫৫০৪৫১৩-১৪
www.titasgas.org.bd

জরুরি গ্যাস শাট ডাউন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ২৪ ইঞ্জিনিয়ার কন্সট্রাকশন ব্রিগেড এর অধীন "ঢাকা এলিভেটেড এক্সপ্রেসওয়ে রুট এলাইনমেন্ট এর মধ্যে বিদ্যমান ইউটিলিটি প্রতিস্থাপন/অপসারণ প্রকল্প" এর ২য় ট্রাক্সের ১ম পর্যায় বনানী রেল স্টেশন হতে মহাখালী বাস টার্মিনাল পর্যন্ত স্থানান্তরিত গ্যাস পাইপলাইন এর টাই-ইন কাজের জন্য আগামী ১১ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০২০ তারিখ, মঙ্গলবার সকাল ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে বিকাল ০৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত মোট ০৮ (আট) ঘন্টা মহাখালী রেলগেট হতে কাকদী বাস স্ট্যান্ড পর্যন্ত বিমানবন্দর সড়ক সংলগ্ন পশ্চিম পার্শ্বের এলাকা, ডিওএইচএস ও ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট আবাসিক এলাকা ও তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকায় শিল্প, ক্যাপটিভ পাওয়ার, বাণিজ্যিক, সিএনজি ও আবাসিক শ্রেণীর গ্রাহকদের গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকবে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য কৃত্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

-তিতাস গ্যাস কৃত্তৃপক্ষ

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-৮৩/২০১৯-২০
জিডি-২৬৩

What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

SONY ESPN

Pakistan v Bangladesh

First Test, Day 4

Live from 11:00am

Bangladesh Cricket League

Four-day Match, Day 4

East Zone v South Zone

Venue: Cox's Bazar

Central Zone v North Zone

Venue: Sylhet

CLIJSTERS TARGETS DUBAI COMEBACK

Four-time Grand Slam winner Kim Clijsters announced Sunday she will return after seven years in retirement at the WTA tournament in Dubai starting on February 17. The 36-year-old former number one, who hung up her racquet after the 2012 US Open, said: "I am so thrilled to be returning to the court. "I'm impatient to resume this sport which I love, in front of the fans." The Belgian described as "extraordinary" the support and encouragement she'd received since announcing her return in September. Clijsters had originally planned to make her return at last month's Australian Open. A knee issue scuppered that plan, with Mexico in March then proposed as an alternative, before she accepted an invitation from the Dubai organisers. The holder of 41 titles, including three US Opens (2005, 2009 and 2010) and one Australian Open (2011), turned professional in 1997. She reached the world number one ranking for the first time in 2003, and for the last time in February 2011.

--- AFP





Pakistan's young speedster Naseem shah started his second-innings onslaught with the dismissal of Bangladesh opener Saif Hasan before taking a hattrick to leave Bangladesh facing an innings defeat on the third day of the Rawalpindi Test yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Naseem hattrick leaves Tigers reeling

AFP, Rawalpindi



Teen age p a c e m a n Naseem Shah became the youngest player to record a Test hattrick as Pakistan closed in on victory against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi on Sunday. Just when Bangladesh seemed to have fought their way back into the match at 124-2 minutes before the close on the third day, Naseem destroyed them with three wickets off successive deliveries. Aged 16 years and 359 days, he becomes the youngest player to record a Test hat trick, besting Bangladeshi Alok Kapali who achieved the feat aged 19 in 2003. Naseem trapped Najmul Hossain Shanto leg before off the fourth ball of his seventh over for 38, then followed up with dismissals of Taijul Islam (lbw) and Mahmudullah (caught) with the next two deliveries.

Naseem had figures of 4-26 before he left the field with a shoulder injury. Shanto and Mominul Haque, unbeaten on 37 at the close, had added 71 for the third wicket after they lost Saif Hassan on 16 and Tamim Iqbal on 34. At the close, Bangladesh were 126-6 and needing another 86 runs to avoid an innings defeat with two days to play. Naseem, who burst onto the scene on Pakistan's Australia tour last year, is also the youngest fast bowler and second bowler overall to take five wickets in a Test innings. He achieved that feat at 16 years and 307 days against Sri Lanka in Karachi last year. Pakistan were bowled out for 445 in their first innings with Babar Azam scoring 143 and Haris Sohail 75. Saif, playing his first Test, was on a pair after his second-ball duck

SCORES IN BRIEF
BANGLADESH: First innings 233 and second innings 126 for 6 (Tamim 34, Najmul 38, Mominul 37 not out; Naseem 4-26, Yasir 2-33)
PAKISTAN: First innings 445 all out (Masood 100, Azhar 34, Azam 143, Shafiq 65, Sohail 75; Jayed 3-86, Rubel 3-113, Taijul 2-139)

in the first innings but he started confidently to reach 16 with four boundaries before he was bowled by Naseem. Iqbal, fresh from scoring the highest first-class score on Bangladeshi soil of 334 not out last week, was trapped leg-before by Yasir. Earlier, Pakistan lost seven wickets either side of lunch with Sohail holding the innings together. He struck seven fours and two sixes for his third Test half-century before holing out off spinner Taijul Islam to deep mid-wicket.

Last man Naseem was run out to end Pakistan's first innings. A healthy 10,000-strong holiday crowd had come in anticipation of popular batsman Babar Azam scoring a double hundred. But resuming at 342-3, Pakistan lost Azam to the first ball of the day. Azam seemed caught in two minds whether to play or leave a length delivery from pace bowler Abu Jayed and edged to Mohammad Mithun at first slip. Azam's 143 was his fifth Test hundred and a masterclass of attractive batting, which included a six and 18 fours. Asad Shafiq, who put on 137 for the fourth wicket with Azam, added just five to his overnight score before he was caught behind off fast bowler Ebadot Hossain for a 65 that included nine boundaries. Jayed was the pick of the bowlers with 3-86 while Islam finished with 2-139.

Atletico get timely victory

AFP, Madrid

Atletico Madrid won for the first time in four games as they beat Granada 1-0 on Saturday to move into fourth place in La Liga. Argentinian forward Angel Correa scored the only goal in the sixth minute, netting for the fifth time in nine matches. Atletico had goalkeeper Jan Oblak to thank for preserving the three points with a superb save from Roberto Soldado's crafty second-half backheel. Diego Simeone's side could be overtaken on Sunday by Sevilla, who visit Celta Vigo, but the coach will welcome the return to form for a side who must face holders Liverpool in the last 16 of the Champions League later this month. Surprising Getafe took another step towards their own Champions League qualification as Jorge Molina scored twice in a sensational 3-0 win over fellow top-four contenders Valencia. The 37-year-old Molina capped a storming performance with two goals in the second half before Jaime Mata added a third with three minutes left, after Valencia's Alessandro Florenzi had been sent off. Getafe stay third, three points ahead of Atletico and Sevilla. Up next for Jose Bordalas' side is a trip to Barcelona next weekend but on this evidence, it will be the stumbling Catalans feeling nervous ahead of that game. Getafe face La Liga's defending champions on the back of four consecutive victories.

Kings unveil the 'pirate' who roomed with Messi

SPORTS REPORTER



Covering his left eye with one hand and punching the air with the right, Argentinian striker Hernan Barcos introduced himself to Bashundhara Kings fans with his trademark pirate celebration on the big stage under open skies as the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) champions introduced their new recruit at the under-construction Bashundhara Sports Complex in the Bashundhara Residential Area yesterday. Although it is a traditional practice in countries such as Spain, the introduction of a foreign player was quite a unique sight in Bangladesh because no Bangladeshi club had introduced a player in such way before. Bashundhara Kings made a big stage on their green practice ground with an impressive digital backdrop as numerous fans, all wearing the number 28 allotted to Barcos -- waited. Finally, after the introduction of four other foreigners who already played the Federation Cup this season, the 6ft 2in Barcos appeared in a black and grey jacket and blue jeans. The 35-year-old, who famously shared a dressing room with star Lionel Messi during his five-match international career, signed a 10-month contract that will allow him to play in the AFC Cup and the second phase of the BPL. And he was eager to unleash his trademark celebration on the field to bring joy to fans and the club. "Forget about the number of goals I want to score. I want to make Bashundhara champions in the group stage of the AFC Cup and the Bangladesh Premier League," Barcos said, ponytail flowing. He also told the tale of his trademark pirate celebration, with coach Oscar Bruzon acting as a translator. "The pirate celebration started because of my surname. Barcos



Former Argentina international Hernan Barcos pulls out his trademark pirate celebration during a unique instance in Bangladesh football yesterday, when the Bashundhara Kings introduced him in grand style.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

means ship in Spanish and ships are related to pirates. I am really excited to start celebrating goals with the pirate celebration. Although a very challenging competition is ahead, I want to start the pirate celebration not only for me, but also for the team and fans. "As a striker, I want to score. But the most important thing is that I want to play as a member of the team and understand the players. At the moment we are all the same. The important thing is success," added Barcos. Barcos had played in 10 different counties and also had offers from clubs in Brazil and Argentina, but says he chose Bangladesh because as a "personal challenge". Eventually, the conversation shifted to his more illustrious national teammate and Barcos was more than happy to speak about what

would be an unforgettable moment for any player: sharing a pitch with Messi. "Playing with Lionel Messi is the biggest achievement and something every professional desires. I felt proud to have the opportunity to firstly play with the national team and secondly, with the player who is considered the best in the world. "I really enjoyed the time I played with Messi. Those days were great because the conditions were different and I had to understand them and my game improved. Playing with Messi was an experience I can never forget," said Barcos, who understandably chose his compatriot over Cristiano Ronaldo when the now-monotonous comparison was drawn. "Both players are completely different and they are both big stars, but if you ask me to choose one, I will choose Messi."

Leverkusen win seven-goal thriller

AFP, Berlin



Substitute Leon Bailey scored one late goal and made another as Bayer Leverkusen sealed a stunning 4-3 win over Borussia Dortmund to deny the visitors the chance to go second in the Bundesliga on Saturday. Bailey came on for the final 20 minutes with his side 3-2 down and after slotting home the equaliser, the Jamaican winger's audacious backheel led to Lars Bender heading in Leverkusen's winner. It was the first time Dortmund teenager Erling Braut Haaland had failed to score for his new club after hitting eight goals in his first four games. Leverkusen are now fifth while Dortmund stay third. However, Borussia could finish the weekend six points behind Bayern Munich if the defending champions beat second-placed RB Leipzig at home on Sunday. The goals flew at the BayArena with three disallowed efforts on top of the two Kevin Volland also scored for Leverkusen. Mats Hummels, Emre Can -- who was making his Dortmund debut -- and Raphael Guerreiro netted Dortmund's goals. Former Liverpool and Juventus midfielder Can scored a stunning goal to put Dortmund 2-1 up in the first half.

Storm defers Man City fixture

AFP, London

Manchester City's Premier League clash with West Ham was among major sporting events postponed on Sunday as storm Ciara battered the United Kingdom. Howling winds and driving rain have disrupted transport links with travellers advised only to make journeys if absolutely necessary. "Due to extreme and escalating weather conditions and in the interests of supporter and staff safety, today's match has been postponed," City said in a statement. "This decision has been made by Manchester City's Safety Officer following consultation with Club stakeholders and officials at West Ham United."

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