



# The Daily Star

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FALGUN 3, 1426 BS

Your Right to Know

PLUS 40 PAGES 29TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT SEGMENT 3

JAMADIU SANI 21, 1441 HIJRI

20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 12.00



CORONAVIRUS FALLOUT

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QUARANTINED CHINA RETURNEES GO HOME -- PAGE 2



PHOTO: AFP

A girl wearing a face mask plays on her scooter at a park in Beijing on February 15, 2020. The death toll from China's new coronavirus epidemic surged past 1,500 yesterday after 143 more people died in the country, according to official data. Beijing authorities on Friday ordered everyone returning to the city from holidays to go into quarantine for 14 days or risk punishment, Chinese state-run media reports.



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The tribunals will surely help speed up the trial process of the human trafficking cases, he said.

Over 4,700 human trafficking cases are now pending, Anisul Huq said, expecting that the tribunals, once set up, will try the human traffickers to check such incidents.

The development comes after Bangladesh

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Serajul Islam Choudhury

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PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

DREDGING KARNAPHULI

## Work hindered by plastic waste

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

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A CSD is equipped with a rotating cutter head for cutting and fragmenting harder soils and rock while a grab dredger picks up seabed material with a clamshell bucket, which hangs from an onboard crane.

A recent survey conducted by the researchers at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology revealed that the riverbed has a layer of polythene and plastic waste stretching from 2 to 7 metres, said

sources at the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA).

The CPA had initiated "Sadarghat to Bakaliar Char Dredging" project at a cost of Tk 258 crore in May 2018 to restore navigability of the Karnaphuli.

The four-year-project is supposed to be completed in 2022, said CPA sources.

In October 2018, excavation

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**আইডিএলসি ফিন্যান্স ডিপোজিট**

**আস্ব্য থাক বিশ্বস্ত হাতে**

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A conservancy worker throws debris on an open truck of Dhaka South City Corporation, kicking up dust and dirt in the air. Amid such disregard for regulations to prevent air pollution, Dhaka ranked second worst in the world in the Air Quality Index yesterday yet again. The photo was taken from Malibagh, in front of Ayesha Shopping Complex.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

MOSQUITO CONTROL

# DNCC launches crash programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) authorities yesterday launched a two-week crash programme for mosquito control, amid a rise in mosquito population in the capital partly due to subdued activities of city corporations because of the recently-concluded city polls.

"All 54 wards of DNCC will come under the crash programme," said panel mayor of DNCC Jamal Mostafa, while inaugurating the programme at Police Staff College in Mirpur-13.

"We hope city dwellers will get its benefit," he said, adding that the programme will continue till February 28.

Jamal said they will use fogger machines, wheel-barrow machines and vehicle-mounted foggers to kill mosquitoes.

Jamal said 10 workers -- who will be outsourced -- will join regular workers in every ward. Five of them will help spray adulticide and larvicide through fogger machines and hand spray, while five others will identify hotspots of Aedes and culex mosquitoes, he said.

The waste management division will also remain active, Jamal said.

The move comes at a time when residents of different parts of the city have been suffering from mosquito menace over the last one month, as no significant efforts were seen on the city corporations' part in recent weeks.

Residents of areas including Pallabi, Mirpur, Basabo, Gendaria,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# Surveillance of Rohingya not weak: home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday expressed hope that Myanmar will take back their nationals as discussion is still underway regarding Rohingya repatriation.

He came up with the statement in reply to a journalist's query after attending the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) at its headquarters in the capital's Agargaon.

In replay to another query on surveillance of Rohingyas, the minister said, "The surveillance is not weak at all. You know there are 1,100,000 Rohingyas [living in Cox's Bazar], which is three times the population of Teknaf."

"They have been placed under the supervision of our law enforcement agencies including police, Rapid Action Battalion, Border Guard Bangladesh and Ansar," he said.

In addition, watchtowers and CCTV cameras are also being installed to further strengthen surveillance of the Rohingya camps, said Asaduzzaman.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

# Bangabandhu was a friend of the world

## Says Prof Haider at lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The activities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the international arena after the liberation of Bangladesh show he was a friend of whole world,

"He fought not for just one nation but for all of humankind. In his death, his life shines more brightly than ever," said Haider A Khan, professor of Economics of University of Denver, while delivering a lecture at Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) yesterday.

BEA organised the public lecture titled "From Bangabandhu to Viswabandhu: Towards Global Liberation Through Public Reasoning" at National Planning and Development Academy.

Highlighting Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's political acumen and stance for repressed people, Haider said, "It is up to us and the succeeding generations to apply the principles that he left behind flexibly, wisely and cooperatively to avert the third global crisis and move towards a brighter future for generations to come."

Haider's lecture was based on a book written by him, scheduled to be published in March.

The book will contain three of Bangabandhu's most important speeches between 1970 and 1974.

"Looking back and reading all three speeches carefully in historical context, we can see why Bangabandhu was unique, a true friend and leader of his own people."

Bangabandhu was an emotionally mature, thoughtful

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

# 'The noblest of professions'

## Ethics Club Bangladesh honours six teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teaching is the noblest of all professions, as teachers are the ones who help develop mind and character of students and thus help in building a nation, said eminent personalities at a programme yesterday.

Ethics Club Bangladesh organised the programme titled "Adarsha Sikkhok Sammanana-2019" at a auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum, honouring six teachers for helping create a better country through their teachings.

National Professor Rafiqul Islam, National Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Prof MM Akash and Khorshed Alam, a former head teacher of a high school from Feni, were recognised for their work at the ceremony.

However, Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury and Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal could not attend the programme.

Prof Rafiqul Islam said, "My teaching profession exceeded the timeline of six decades. Teaching is not



Education Minister Dipu Moni hands a certificate to National Prof Rafiqul Islam at the event.

PHOTO: STAR

just my profession, it is my passion too. Without the teaching profession, I don't have any life."

"I feel fortunate enough that I have a long teaching career, and have been able to teach at different educational institutions in the country and abroad as well. I do believe, teaching is the noblest of all professions," he added.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam, said, "I have been teaching for a long time, and I enjoy it because I get to associate with 18-20-year old youths on a daily basis. This is my family. They are the ones who help me stay on my track. I consider this profession a very important one."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

# Agents of change

## Amader Pathshala marks 12 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amader Pathshala, a non-government primary school for underprivileged children, yesterday celebrated its 12th anniversary amid enthusiasm and festivity.

On the occasion, the school organised a discussion and cultural programme at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital, where its teachers, students, management, donors and civil society representatives took part.

Speaking at the event, Abul Hussain Ahmed Kamal, a former professor of Dhaka University and adviser of the school, said the school and people involved with it are working for social change.

"The dedication and sacrifice they have shown, to ensure education for underprivileged children, is exemplary. If we

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

**WE ARE SADDENED**

Renowned industrialist and social worker and Chairman of Standard Ceramic Industries Ltd. Mr. A.K.M Jahangir Khan breathed his last at 10:30 a.m. on 15th February 2020 (Inna-Lillahe Wa Inna Ilaihe Razeun). He was 81.

All employees and directors of the company pray for the salvation of the departed soul and sympathize with the bereaved family.

All Employees and Directors of Standard Ceramic Industries Ltd.

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SALES AND MARKETING

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**Deadline to submit your resume is 31 March 2020**

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**The Daily Star**



## Sgt Zahurul's death anniv observed

Bss, Cg

Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) yesterday observed the 51st death anniversary of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque with due solemnity.

On this day in 1969, he was killed by the Pakistani Army after he was detained at Dhaka Cantonment in connection with the Agartala conspiracy case.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil was arranged at the central mosque of Bangladesh Air Force Base Zahurul Haque in Chattogram after Maghrib prayers, seeking divine blessing for the departed soul of the deceased and for the continued peace and prosperity of the country, said an ISPR press release.

Air Officer Commander of BAF Base Zahurul Haque, Air Vice Marshal ASM Fakrul Islam, senior officers, airmen and other members of the base attended the programme.



The intersection at Shahbagh is one of the busiest in Dhaka, and it never seems to run out of things that contribute to the chaos. This truck has remained abandoned near the police box for weeks now, blocking a lane. However, the vehicle's storage capacity is being put to use by vendors of nearby flower shops. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Agents of change

FROM PAGE 3

could establish more such schools, we would see a bigger social change," he said.

Abul Hasan Rubel, founder of Amader Pathshala, said they have a bigger plan centring the school, such as establishing a permanent campus and giving it a complete institutional structure.

"I urge people of different walks of life and institutions to become a part of our endeavour. I also request the government to donate us a piece of land to build the campus," he added.

Tofazzal Hossain, head teacher and one of the initiators of the school, said at the beginning, they thought the school would shut down soon due to financial crisis. "But we didn't have to because of help from some people."

"I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to these people. I also thank the teachers and staff members who are working hard without thinking of better salary," he said.

## Bangabandhu was a friend

FROM PAGE 3

and courageous human being who valued democratic public reasoning deeply, Prof Haider said.

Replying to a question, he said Bangabandhu had no idea that his own people could kill him, but tragically that is what happened, adding that more research needs to be carried out to find the political masterminds who orchestrated the brutal killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family.

BEA President Abul Barakat said Bangabandhu had always been vocal against the repression of common people.

The economist further said had Sheikh Mujibur Rahman not been killed, the gap of discrimination between rich and poor would not reach to the massive scale that the country is experiencing at present.

## Surveillance of Rohingya

FROM PAGE 3

The minister further said barbed-wire fence is being set up around the camps as per instructions of the prime minister.

Army has already started erecting fences, he said, adding, "Our key objective is that they [Rohingyas] do not leave the camp..."

Earlier, the home minister attended the silver jubilee celebration of BCG as chief guest and handed over medals to officials and staff members of the force.

This year, 40 members of BCG were awarded Bangladesh Coast Guard Medal, President Coast Guard Medal, Bangladesh Coast Guard (Seba) Medal and President Coast Guard (Seba) Medal for their outstanding contributions.

Addressing the event, the minister said, "Bangladesh Coast Guard is a powerful force. It's working on preventing various offenses including smuggling and illegal fishing." The coast guard is also working on protecting the environment, he added.

Last year, BCG seized smuggled goods worth around Tk 2,052 crore and also recovered narcotics worth around Tk 161 crore, according to the force's bulletin.

Mostafa Kamal Uddin, senior secretary to the public security division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, attended the event as special guest.

The secretary said the ministry has taken various steps to modernise the force. "Its organisational structure has already been expanded. Various infrastructure, including modern training bases, have been built," he added.

In his welcome speech, BCG Director General Rear Admiral M Ashraf Haq said robbery incidents in Chittagong port have come down to zero due to the force's relentless efforts.

International agency ReCAAP (Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery) has acknowledged the efforts in its report, he added.

## DNCC launches crash

FROM PAGE 3

Mohammadpur, Kamrangirchar, Hatirpool, Moghbazar, Manda, Dogair, Dania and Uttarkhan said they have been facing a higher level of mosquito invasion into their households.

The situation has deteriorated for the last couple of weeks as regular mosquito control drives were not sufficient in his area, said Anowarul Islam, a resident of Gendaria.

The "DIT plot pond" at Gendaria, which has been out of any cleaning activities for several years, has become a major breeding source of mosquito, he said.

Fatima Ulmee, a resident of Mirpur-12, said they have been suffering from mosquito menace since the beginning of winter.

"It is really tough to sit in a room without using any mosquito repellent or net," she said.

Meanwhile, an official of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) said they are continuing their adulticide and larvicide-spraying work to control mosquito population.

He said they are visiting at least 15 houses in a ward per day, to identify Aedes mosquito breeding grounds and destroying those.

He said they are also holding meetings involving entomologists to get recommendations to control Aedes mosquito.

## Ensuring

FROM PAGE 5

She also underscored Bangladesh's contributions to the UN's peacekeeping operations as a major troop and police contributing country.

In post-conflict context, she said, it is critically important to address impunity, ensure accountability and break the cycles of conflicts and atrocities of the past.

In this regard, she emphasised the importance of preventing a sense of inequality, discrimination, exclusion and other root causes of violence and conflict in a society.

The debate was organised by Belgium as the president of the Security Council for the month of February.

## Dog culling in St Martin's

FROM PAGE 5

kills dogs whenever they find any, added the former secretary.

Mohammed Wahedul Alam, district livestock officer of Cox's Bazar told The Daily Star that this was a clear violation of Animal Welfare Act-2019.

"They cannot cull dogs, as the animals can be vaccinated," he said.

He said vaccination programme is usually led by health ministry.

Asked, Dr Mahbubur Rahman, civil surgeon of Cox's Bazar district told The Daily Star that the vaccination programmes are conducted in all districts in turns.

"As I recently joined here, I don't know what happened exactly," he said.

He, however, told this correspondent that he will look into the matter soon.

Meanwhile, People for Animal Welfare Foundation, a rights group, yesterday condemned the culling, terming it a "hellish act of murder".

"We fear that this will encourage other local government bodies to perform such cruelty, despite it being illegal. The best way to control the number of dogs is neutering," they said in a press release.

## Sust career club marks 8th anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A two-day programme celebrating the eighth anniversary of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) Career Club ended on the campus yesterday.

Inaugurated on Friday morning, the event featured a rally, discussion and quiz competition.

Sky lanterns were also released in the evening, as part of the celebrations.

Nojibur Rahman, former principal secretary to the prime minister, was the keynote speaker at the programme.

The university's Vice Chancellor Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed attended the ceremony as chief guest.

The career club also awarded ten individuals for their performances in debate, sports, innovation, music, recitation, theatre, research and photography.

This year, the club also awarded the "Honour of Excellence" to five alumni of the university's first batch.

They were recognised for their excellence in public service, corporate career, education and research, entrepreneurship and community development.

During the festival, the club's annual magazine was also unveiled.

With the slogan -- Steps toward your dream -- the career club was founded on February 14, 2012.

## The noblest

FROM PAGE 3

"I believe primary teachers are the ones who actually shape students. We [university teachers] just give students a finishing touch, but primary teachers actually play a major role in instilling the morale into students," he added.

Prof MM Akash said, "Educators must be qualified first, so that they can produce educated students; or else lesser-educated students will take the place of teachers in future."

"Therefore, fair appointment of teachers should be ensured, so that no nepotism can take place during appointment at educational institutions," added Akash.

Speaking as chief guest, Education Minister Dipu Moni said, "Achieving success will mean nothing, if one doesn't value humanity and ethnics."

In response to the observation of Prof MM Akash, the education minister said the government is recruiting teachers without nepotism, and ensuring proper training for teachers to provide quality education for students.

Khorshed Alam thanked all for the honour.

Ethics Club Bangladesh founder and President ME Chowdhury Shamim urged the education minister to observe "Ethics Day" across the country.

## Good news for heart

FROM PAGE 5

for treatment, said the deputy director.

The cath lab was launched at a programme organised by the cardiology department in assistance with Bangladesh Society of Cardiac Intervention and Bangladesh Cardiac Society, at the conference room of the department in the afternoon.

Speakers at the inaugural session said it will need more interventional cardiologists and a cardiac surgery unit to handle to the huge rush of heart patients.

Director of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Prof Dr Mir Jamal Uddin; head of cardiology department at MMCH Prof MA Bari; Prof Dr AKM Fazlur Rahman; Prof Dr Abul Hossain Khan and principal of Mymensingh Medical College Prof Dr Chitta Ranjan Devnath spoke on the occasion, among others.

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## Conference

FROM PAGE 5

Mahabub-Ul-Haque Majumder, and its software engineering department head Prof Touhid Bhuiyan.

The two-day event includes keynote, plenary and technical sessions. A total of 281 papers from 20 countries will be presented at the event, said organisers.

The conference aims to catalyse research collaboration between relevant communities and disciplines that can work together to deepen the understanding and build a firm foundation for the emerging science of cyber security, they said.

The first international conference on cyber security was hosted by Karabuk University, Turkey in 2018.

National Digital Security Agency DG Rezaul Karim, in his speech, said the government formed the agency as cyber security prevention is one of its major concerns.

## Six killed

FROM PAGE 5

injured as a bus fell into a ditch beside Dhaka-Barishal highway in Diknagar bus stand area under Muksudpur upazila, said police.

The deceased were identified as Alim Mollah (65) and Rabiul Mollah (35).

The injured, wife of Alim, was taken to Bhanga Upazila Health Complex, said OC Ataur Rahman of Bhanga Highway Police Station.





The accident took place as driver of the bus lost his control over the steering, said the police officer.



Students of South Breeze School perform at a ceremony yesterday, where the institution pledged to carry out 100 good deeds throughout the year in honour of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary. Education Minister Dipu Moni attended the programme as chief guest.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

**3rd Death Anniversary**  
  
The 3rd Death Anniversary of Mrs. Kohinoor Dastgir, w/o former Ambassador Major General Quazi Golam Dastgir, KAAO, psc, will be held after Asr on Sunday, February 16, at her Dhanmondi residence "Hasnahena". Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to please attend and join in prayer for her.  
D-35




### Request for Concept Note

The Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) is a trust fund established by BRAC with support from Government of Germany through KfW. The CBF is an innovative direct climate finance mechanism, which will support any Local, National and International NGO registered in Bangladesh. The CBF invites Project Concept note from NGOs to increase the resilience of vulnerable people in urban areas who are either displaced or are at risk of being displaced due to the impacts of climate change. The fund primarily supports vulnerable communities in city corporation areas of Khulna, Barishal, Rajshahi and Municipality of Sathkira and Sirajganj. Each concept note should cover at least one aforesaid project area. Duration of the project may vary from 3 to 5 years and estimated budget should be limited within BDT 50 lakh to 3 crore.

For detailed instruction to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.brac.net/cbf>

All interested NGOs are requested to complete and submit the Project Concept Note in approved template and submit to: [cbf.info@brac.net](mailto:cbf.info@brac.net) with subject: CBF/Call-NGO/2020/01. Requested Concept note must be submitted in English.

Deadline for submitting Concept Note: **Monday, 30 March 2020 at 23.59 pm BST.**

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ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয় হইবে।  
**০১৮৪৪ ৪৭১ ৫৯৭**

**Planning and Development Division**  
Khulna University, Khulna

Memo No: KU/PD-215/2020-17

Date: 13-02-2020


## Corrigendum

Memo No: KU/PD-215/2020; Date: 06-02-2020

Sl. No.	Existing	Amended As
14 (b)	The minimum specific experience of tenderer in supply of similar goods of at least 3 (three) contracts (each with a value of at least Tk. 8 (eight crore) successfully completed within the last 5 (five) years.	The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar goods of at least 03 (three) contracts successfully completed within the last 03 (three) years, each with a value of at least Tk. 2.50 crore for package-01, 1.50 crore for package-02, 2.00 crore for package-03 & 0.50 crore for package-04.

**Professor Dr Uttam Kumar Majumder**  
Director  
Planning & Development  
Khulna University, Khulna

GD-295

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## Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited from reputed Manufacturers/Local Agents/Companies/Dealers/Distributors/Resellers for supplying & commissioning of 400 units IP phone for Islami Bank Bangladesh limited under the following terms and conditions:

The intending bidders have to apply in their letter head pad for purchasing tender document to supply & commissioning of 400 units IP phone for IBBL. The tender document will be sold upon payment of Tk.3,000/- only in cash (non refundable) **from 16.02.2020 to 03.03.2020** during office hours. Tender will be received at the office of the undersigned during office hours up to **03.00 PM on 04.03.2020** and Technical offer(s) will be opened at **03:10 PM** on the same date at the same place in the office of the undersigned in presence of the Bidder(s) or their representatives (who may like to attend). Details information relating to the Tender are available at Bank's website: [www.islamibankbd.com](http://www.islamibankbd.com) or in the form of hard copy in the office of the undersigned.

**FAVP & Head of Department**



# Ensuring justice a precondition for Rohingya repatriation

Says Ambassador Rabab Fatima

BSS, Dhaka

Ensuring justice and accountability for the Rohingya population is an important precondition for their safe, dignified and voluntary return to Rakhine state in Myanmar, said Ambassador Rabab Fatima, permanent representative of Bangladesh to the UN.

She said this on Thursday while addressing the Security Council Open debate on “Peace building and sustaining peace: transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict situation”, said a press release.

Highlighting the importance of internationally recognised criminal justice mechanisms in ensuring justice for countries coming out of conflict, she welcomed the “groundbreaking decision” of the International Criminal Court about ensuring accountability of the rights violations and crimes by Myanmar against its Rohingya population.

She also exemplified the ICJ order of January 23 as a momentous development in this regard.

In reiterating Bangladesh’s commitment to the Security Council’s Women Peace and Security, and Youth, Peace and Security agenda, the envoy said, “We remain committed to supporting multi-pronged efforts of the UN to prevent and ensure accountability for violence against women and children during armed conflicts.”

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Firefighters getting out of a mangled bus after completing their rescue operation. The vehicle hit a covered van from behind on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Bhawal National Park around 11am yesterday. The bus supervisor and conductor died on the spot and 10 passengers sustained injuries due to the accident.

# Six killed, 13 injured in road accidents

Four die in Gazipur alone

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed and 13 injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Gazipur, an unidentified youth was killed as a bus hit him while he was crossing Dhaka-Mymensingh road at Gilaberaid in Sreepur, said police.

In another incident, a man, whose identity could not be known, died instantly as a pickup ran him over on a road in Joinabazar area, said Monjurul Haque, officer-in-charge of Mawna Highway Police Station.

In Rajendrapur, the supervisor and conductor of a bus were killed and 10 passengers injured when the vehicle hit a covered van from behind, said OC Alamgir Hossain Buiyan of Gazipur Sadar Police Station.

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately.

In another incident in Gazipur, an SUV carrying Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner Mostafizur Rahman hit a road divider at Rajendrapur Chourasta, injuring him and two of its passengers, said Joydevpur Police Station OC Jabelul Islam.

The accident occurred as the vehicle tried to avoid collision with an oncoming speeding car, said the OC.

The injured were taken to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital.

In Gopalganj, two people were killed and another was

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# 2 held with 9,000 litres of stolen oil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) in a drive yesterday seized a tanker truck carrying 9,000 litres of stolen furnace oil and arrested two persons from port city’s Panchliah area.

The arrestees are Md Rizwanul Haque (35) and Md Rahman (34), said Rab sources.

According to Rab, the two are part of a smuggling gang. They used to smuggle oil from abroad through ships and unload those at the outer anchorage to evade tax.

“Tipped off, we arrested the duo from the entry point of a flyover in Shulokbahar area around 2pm,” Assistant Superintendent of Police Tarek Aziz, also operation officer of Rab-7 (Chandgaon camp), told The Daily Star.

“They were planning to take the oil to Sitakunda after unloading in Bridge Ghata area of Karnaphuli upazila,” said ASP Aziz.

The Rab official said, “Every month, the syndicate used to smuggle two consignments through deep sea.”

“We are not sure whether the consignment was smuggled from a mother vessel or government vessel. We’ll know the details after interrogating them,” he added ASP.

Maj Shamim Sarkar, deputy director of Rab-7, said they have gleaned names of some syndicate members from the duo and actions will be taken against them.

ASP Aziz said a case was filed with Panchliah Police Station in this connection.

# Tackling the nuisance of hydraulic horns

Savar youths run awareness campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

As hundreds of vehicles pass through Savar every day, the busy, bustling area on the outskirts of the capital sees severe sound pollution, further aggravated by hydraulic horns used in local battery-run three wheelers.

On Friday, a group of university and college students -- part of an organisation called Chobighor -- conducted a campaign on the town’s central thoroughfare to raise awareness about the nuisance.

Around noon, the group organised a rally at Savar Bazar road, and seized some 100 hydraulic horns from auto-rickshaws. Keeping with the theme of Valentine’s Day on Friday, the youths gifted a rose to each auto-rickshaw driver, and educated them on why they should not be using such loud horns.

According to news reports, the sound of hydraulic horns measure at 95 decibel, higher than the permitted level (75dB) for vehicle horns.

Prince Ghosh, founder and president of Chobighor, said, “We want to see a hazard-free Savar. Hydraulic horns on auto-rickshaws are causing severe sound pollution here, so we decided to raise awareness among drivers.”

“The drivers have responded positively to our campaign and we hope that they will accept our request to stop using such loud horns,” he added.

“We also submitted an application to Savar municipality’s mayor, seeking a ban on hydraulic horns in this municipality, which he accepted,” said Prince.

Meanwhile, locals welcomed the initiative. Kamrun Nahar, a sixth-grader, said, “The loud noise of these horns is very disturbing, especially during studies. I’m glad this issue is being addressed.”

Rabul Mia, who used a hydraulic horn in his auto-rickshaw, said, “I was not aware of the harm this was causing, and I will use a different horn from now on.”

Mayor of Savar municipality Hazi Abdul Goni appreciated Chobighor’s initiative and thanked them for this timely initiative.

“I have decided to declare a ban on hydraulic horns following their request. We will work together to reduce sound pollution,” he added.

# Dog culling in St Martin’s sparks outrage

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Cig

Last week, a group of people were seen scouting the beaches of Saint Martin’s island with a large net in hand. They were capturing dogs, and strangling them to death one by one, using a metal contraption.

The canines squirming and screaming to escape this death trap had become a common scene during winters in the island, and this has allegedly been happening under the supervision of Saint Martin’s Union Parishad.

This month, they culled around a hundred dogs, and stopped only after a tourist challenged them on the legal grounds of this cruel act on February 13.

Samee Kader, a lawyer who was on holiday at the island, witnessed the culling. He told The Daily Star that a group of people were capturing dogs and killing them mercilessly.

He saw four spots on the beach where dead bodies of at least 30 dogs were piled up.

“When I challenged them and asked who ordered the culling, they were faltering to answer. At one point they said they were forest department staff, and fled when I asked them to produce identification documents,” said Samee.

Riazul Haque, member of the island’s Union Parishad, denied giving any order for dog culling, and claimed not to have any knowledge of it.

The Daily Star could not reach Shah Jahan Mia -- chairman of the union parishad -- for comments, as he is currently in prison.

Seeking anonymity, a former member of Saint Martin’s Union Parishad told The Daily Star that every winter, the parishad has been hiring a group of people to cull dogs, as they find it to be the “easiest option” to keep the dog population of the island under control.

The group stays for three to four days and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

# Good news for heart patients in M’singh

First-ever cath lab opens at MMCH



PHOTO: STAR

The cath lab at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Cardiac patients in Mymensingh have much to cheer about as a cardiac catheterisation laboratory (cath lab), was inaugurated at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) yesterday.

Patients admitted at the 1,000-bed hospital with heart diseases will be able to avail better treatment from this lab, said hospital sources.

Cath lab is an examination room in a hospital or clinic with diagnostic imaging equipment used to visualise arteries and chambers of the heart and treat any stenosis or abnormality found.

MMCH is often burdened with patients three times its capacity. Of those, some 200 are currently admitted at the cardiology department against its 20 seats.

But they could not be served fully when they needed stenting. “Now patients will get this facility at the hospital,” said Dr Ganapati Aditya, an associate professor of cardiology (head of unit-2), at MMCH.

A stent is a tiny tube that doctors can insert into a blocked passageway to keep it open. Stents restore flow of blood or other fluids, depending on where it’s placed.

Dr Aditya said previously, many had to travel to Dhaka to get the services. “Disadvantaged patients will be benefitted most from this lab,” said Dr Laxmi Narayan Majumder, deputy director of MMCH.

A patient will have to pay around Tk 6,000 for angiogram and related tests at the hospital, which is around Tk 25,000 in private hospitals.

Thousands from greater Mymensingh region (Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Tangail), Sylhet, Sunamganj, Gazipur, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Gazipur districts come to the hospital

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Members of youth organisation Chobighor in Savar educated around 100 battery-run auto-rickshaw drivers on the harmful aspects of loud hydraulic horns. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Conference on cyber security begins at DIU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A two-day conference on cyber security began at Daffodil International University (DIU) on its permanent campus in Ashulia of Savar yesterday.

Software engineering department of the university organised the second international conference titled “Cyber Security and Computer Science”.

National Digital Security Agency Director General Md Rezaul Karim inaugurated the conference as chief guest. Prof Jemal Abawaji of Deakin University, Australia; Prof Mamoun Alazab of Charles Darwin University, Australia; and Prof Oguz FINDIK of Karabuk University, Turkey presented keynote papers at the event.

The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by DIU Vice Chancellor Prof Yousuf M Islam, pro-VC Prof SM

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

‘TORTURE’ AT SAVAR REHAB

# Two employees arrested over patient’s death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police arrested two employees of a drug rehabilitation centre in Savar yesterday over the death of a patient.

The arrestees -- Robiul Hossen (20) and Labib Ahmed (27) -- had been working at “New Ador” in Radio Colony area for four months, said police. Jahangir Alom (38) was declared dead at Enam Medical College Hospital on Friday, hours after he was admitted to the rehab.

His family alleged that Zahangir was beaten to death before he was taken to the hospital.

Victim’s brother Manik Mia filed a case with Savar Model Police Station accusing five named persons -- including New Ador managing director Ariful Islam Jewel -- and two to three unnamed people.

Sub-inspector Moniruzzaman, investigation officer of the case, said the body bore multiple injury marks. During primary interrogation, the arrestees confessed that they kicked and slapped Jahangir and gagged him, said the SI. They also poured water in his nose, he added.

Contacted, AKM Shaukat Islam, deputy director of narcotics control office in Dhaka, said, “We heard about the incident. We are looking into the matter.”

The arrestees made confessional statements at a Dhaka court when they were produced before it, said SI Moniruzzaman. The court sent them to jail later, he said.

# AUW’s sixth Model UN confce held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

The Model United Nations Club of Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chattogram concluded its sixth MUN conference yesterday.

The conference began on Thursday. Considered one of the prestigious MUNs of the country, the conference was attended by over 200 delegates, ranging from middle schoolers to university students from all over the globe, said a press release.

This year’s theme was “Enhancing global diversity to combat racial discrimination and religious conflict”.

The event started off with a plenary session conducted by Dr Nirmala Rao, vice chancellor of AUW, and Dr Michael Eaton of the university’s Politics, Philosophy and Economics faculty.

The conference was led by six committees that tackled alarming issues currently ravaging the world, and the youth represented different nations.

The MUN’s closing ceremony was held at a city hotel yesterday. Delegates from different committees were recognised for their performance at the conference, the press release added.

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## Invitation for e-GP Tender Notice

1	Tender IFT Ref. No.	This office Memo No. 656, 657, 658, 659, 660 Date: 16.02.2020
2	Ministry/division	Local Government Division.
3	Implementing agency	Department of Public Health Engineering.
4	Project/program name	Fourth Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-4).
5	Total package	05 Nos. (01 No. = Major Maintenance + 04 Nos. = WASH Block).
6	e-Tender IDs	427073, 427074, 427075, 427076, 427077
7	Description of work	1) Major Maintenance of 46 Nos. Wash Block (Package No.- PEDP-4-0136) 2) Construction of 08 Nos. RCC Wash Block (Package No.-PEDP-4-0296) 3) Construction of 07 Nos. RCC Wash Block (Package No.-PEDP-4-0297) 4) Construction of 07 Nos. RCC Wash Block (Package No.-PEDP-4-0298) 5) Construction of 07 Nos. RCC Wash Block (Package No.-PEDP-4-0299)
8	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Amit Kumar Sarkar, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Chapainawabganj District., Tel. No.-0781-52584.
9	This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. e-GP registration is mandatory for the tenderer. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">www.eprocure.gov.bd</a> or contract to the undersigned office.	

GD-297

Amit Kumar Sarkar  
Executive Engineer, DPHE  
Chapainawabganj District



The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2020, FALGUN 3, 1426 BS

# Why are people with addiction being tortured at rehabs?

## They need holistic support, not beatings

WE are deeply concerned at the death of a patient at a drug rehabilitation centre in Savar. His family alleges that he was tortured to death at the rehab, hours after the 30-year-old was admitted there. The police too suspect he was tortured, based on injury marks on different parts of his body, including face, head and neck. It goes without saying that the owner and employees of the rehab centre must be brought to book—the police cannot be complacent about finding and arresting the owner of the rehab, who, apparently, is on the run.

But beyond the arrest of the person(s) responsible for the untimely death of a man in his prime, we must decry the inhumane treatment of drug addicts at facilities that are supposed to support them and cure them of their dependency on drugs—not beat them out of it! Just last year, a 37-year-old recovering addict's body was discovered in an ambulance in the parking lot of a drug rehabilitation centre in Moulvibazaar. His body, too, showed signs of torture. In 2016, a 27-year-old died of pneumonia after being made to sit in an icebox filled with ice for up to five hours a day—a treatment prescribed by the doctors of his drug rehabilitation centre in Pabna. What sort of rehabilitation programmes are we designing that require torture techniques for people in need of holistic and sensitive treatment of the body as well as the mind?

Unfortunately, when it comes to the issue of drug addiction, most of our interventions are focused on stopping the supply of drugs, rather than in understanding why people become addicted and how to guide them towards a healthy and meaningful life. Meanwhile, according to a Harm International's report titled "The Global State of Harm Reduction 2018," Bangladesh lacks basic facilities, including medications that can save the lives of people overdosing on drugs. The majority of rehabilitation centres—an unknown number of which operate without licenses—are in terrible conditions, overrun with cockroaches, expired food and drugs, and untrained staff.

In our country, people with addiction are treated no better than jail convicts—and our facilities reflect this mindset. We must change this mentality first and foremost. Only then can we create rehabilitation centres that focus on understanding the root causes of addiction, provide sensitive support to addicts and help them recover.

# Raise awareness about disability rights

## Let people with disability contribute to national development

WHILE we commend the government as well as many non-government organisations for their efforts towards ensuring the rights of people with disabilities, we must also admit that they still have to face many impediments in their day-to-day life. Accessibility still remains a major issue while education and employment opportunities are not ensured for the vast majority of them. What is also disheartening is that people in general are not at all aware about the rights of persons with disabilities. Raising awareness about the issue as well as their specific needs is absolutely necessary to integrate them into mainstream society. Thus, it was very encouraging to see The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) organise an event called the Annual Sponsored Walk in the capital recently to raise awareness about disability rights and raise funds for treatment and rehabilitation of the underprivileged patients.

Bangladesh has the necessary policy frameworks to protect the rights of around 16 lakh people with disabilities. The country has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2007 and has also formulated Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act 2013 and Neurodevelopmental Disability Protection Trust Act 2013, which are aimed at eliminating the discriminations persons with disabilities face. However, in terms of implementing these laws, we are still lagging behind.

We could not yet properly address the accessibility issue they face every day in their educational institutions, workplaces, and public transports. According to the Persons with Disabilities Rights and Protection Act, 2013, all public establishments must be accessible to people with disabilities. Moreover, it has been stated in the Building Construction Act 1952 and National Building Code 2008 that every establishment should be designed in a way that it is accessible to a disabled person (a disabled person should enter and exit a building and use the toilet there without any difficulty). But reportedly, 90 percent public buildings in Dhaka and Chittagong are not accessible. What is more, bringing students with disabilities into mainstream education and creating employment opportunities for them still remain a major challenge for the government.

Therefore, what we need now is proper implementation of the policies, which definitely calls for an increase in our budgetary allocation for the disabled.

LETTERS  
TO THE EDITOR

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Bangladesh and the Fourth Industrial Revolution

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is one of the most discussed issues right now in Bangladesh. Scholars are trying to raise awareness among stakeholders about it in order to reap its benefits.

They are reminding us that businesses are to adopt fourth and fifth generation technologies to remain up-to-date with current market demands. We must now move fast and incorporate creativity and innovation, without hindrance or inhibition, in our schools, factories, companies and even in different government agencies.

Md Ripon, University of Dhaka

# The coronavirus conundrum for Bangladesh apparel industry

RMG NOTES



MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

THE coronavirus, which has already killed hundreds of people in China and is now making its way across the globe, will inevitably cause significant disruption to apparel supply chains during 2020. The question is, to what extent, for how long, and how will Bangladesh be impacted?

Already, we are seeing that the virus is impacting China's polyester and textile supply chains. With Central China at a virtual standstill, and the transport system not operating, it is claimed by some that passing through the Yangtze river—stretching from one end of China to the other—has become impossible. With land transport limited, if the virus spreads further, more parts of China could see a similar lockdown, creating a logistical nightmare and huge disruption to the textile industry.

Leading global apparel brands are already taking a significant hit due to store closures in China as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. H&M has announced that around 45 store closures hurt sales in January while other brands have also noted major disruption in their Chinese operations. Gap, Uniqlo, Hugo Boss, Ralph Lauren, Nike, Levi Strauss and Adidas have all gone public with the announcement of store closures in central China as the impact of the virus continues to leave large parts of the country on lockdown.

I point all of this out because there are major implications for Bangladesh here. It is a story our whole industry will be watching closely.

I know from conversations I have had that the coronavirus has already caused business disruption to garment suppliers in Bangladesh. The reason for this is that, for raw materials such as fabrics and yarns as well as other inputs such as trims, labels etc., we are still heavily dependent on China. In fact, more than 50 percent of Bangladesh's textile and textile-related goods, including garment accessories, are imported from China. In addition, about 40 percent of capital machinery and spare parts for the textile and garment industry come from the country.

For all the strides made by our RMG sector in recent years, this lack of vertical integration—the fact that we only carry out one part of the supply chain process—remains a major source of vulnerability. It is an Achilles Heel for our

industry.

The coronavirus, then, can be viewed as a wake-up call for the Bangladeshi RMG industry and also for the apparel industry globally. This heavy dependence on China is unhealthy in many ways as the disruption to supply chains by an epidemic such as the coronavirus can be devastating; there is a real risk that some businesses may never recover from the problems this causes.

To fulfil orders, many Bangladeshi factories now face having to look beyond China for raw materials and

disruptions.

The lessons here are simple and obvious. Our RMG industry in the long-term needs to become more self-sufficient and less dependent on imports. There is no reason why much of what we import from China should not be produced within Bangladesh, creating extra jobs and adding to gross domestic product in the process. But we can only do this if we develop our industry upwards as well as sideways.

Developing our own supply chains for raw materials and fabrics is a must

But other products have to now follow.

We also need proper research to find data on the gap between demand and supply of every raw material. For example, how much cotton fabrics do we need for the annual production of cotton-based apparel? How much man-made fibre or yarn do we need? How much accessories such as metal button or zipper do we import every year and how much are we producing locally?

We need better industry infrastructure, and more investment into supply chains, in order to become more self-



A Chinese employee wearing a face mask produces material used in making protective suits at a textile factory in Nantong, China's eastern Jiangsu province. PHOTO: AFP

other product intermediaries. This will not be a straightforward task and, with supply of such materials being squeezed globally, prices will likely be higher in what is a seller's market. This could potentially increase the cost of apparel being produced by Bangladesh (although whether brands will accept this increase is another question).

For now, our industry will have to deal with the challenge at hand, but we must learn from it and never again leave ourselves exposed to supply chain

for Bangladesh, even if this means incentivising foreign investors to partner in the building of the required infrastructure. I believe a number of fabric mill investors are already eyeing Bangladesh so we need to give them the push they need to choose us and not a competitor.

The thing is, we can do vertical integration. To offer one example, the vertical manufacture for T-shirts has added a lot of value to the Bangladesh proposition already.

sufficient and better placed to take on large and complex orders. The whole apparel industry has been caught out by the coronavirus, but we cannot say we were not warned and we must all now recognise that we have become dangerously dependent on China. Such a scenario can never be allowed to happen again.

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## PROJECT ■ SYNDICATE

# Toward a New Iran Nuclear Deal



VOLKER PERTHES

WHEN Iran announced in January that it would further "reduce" its commitments under the 2015 deal limiting its nuclear activities, it was not responding to the United States' assassination of Iranian Quds Force leader General Qassem Soleimani a few days earlier. But both developments reflected the escalating confrontation between Iran and the US since the summer of 2019. Any effort to safeguard the substance of the 2015 deal (formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA) must take this context into consideration.

The Iranian regime declared that with this "fifth and final" phase of scaling back its commitments under the JCPOA, it would no longer feel bound by the deal's agreed upper limits on centrifuges and uranium enrichment. At the same time, Iran said that this move, as well as its previous phased commitment reductions, is reversible, and that the authorities would not restrict inspections of the country's nuclear installations by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

But European governments say that Iran's latest step constitutes a grave violation of the deal. Having warned Iran after its previous round of commitment reductions in November 2019, the "E3"—Germany, France, and the United Kingdom—have now triggered the JCPOA's dispute-resolution mechanism (DRM), which is designed to deal with possible breaches of the agreement.

Under the DRM, the agreement's remaining signatories following the withdrawal of the US in 2018—the E3, Russia, China, and Iran—have at least 30 days to resolve the dispute among themselves. If they fail to agree on either a substantive solution or an extension of this deadline, then any of the signatories may bring the dispute to the United Nations Security Council. That body would then have a month to vote on a resolution to extend the suspension of international sanctions against Iran that took effect when the JCPOA entered into force in 2016. Without such a resolution,

the old sanctions would automatically "snap back" into place. And, because US President Donald Trump's administration would certainly use its veto to block such a resolution, bringing a dispute to the Security Council would be a death sentence for the JCPOA.

This doesn't have to happen, if the E3, Russia, China, Iran, and the European Union (which acts as a notary of sorts to the agreement) use the DRM for its intended purpose. None of them wants to lay the JCPOA to rest. But it is unclear whether the deal can be rescued

an opportunity for constructive talks on such a framework. The strategic escalation since last summer, in particular Iran's attacks in September on Saudi Arabian oil facilities and Soleimani's assassination in January, has shown how close the region may be to a (probably uncontrollable) military confrontation. As a result, Gulf states that earlier had encouraged Trump to take a hardline stance against Iran have called explicitly for de-escalation. In addition, various parties that had not been on speaking terms began to talk, or at least prepared to do so: the United Arab Emirates to Iran, the Saudis

European governments should continue trying to facilitate serious, direct talks between the US and Iran. At the same time, they should use the DRM both to discuss immediate de-escalation measures and to explore the contours of a follow-up agreement to the JCPOA—or an alternative should the current deal collapse.

Such discussions should address how to realise the French proposal, originally endorsed by Trump, of a European credit line to help ease Iran's economic distress, as well as how to overcome current US resistance to the idea. Iran could support such a move by reinstating some of its recently "reduced" commitments.

More far-reaching talks could focus on timelines and provisions for future voluntary limitations on Iran's nuclear activities once the JCPOA's "sunset clauses" expire. Eventually, the US would have to be part of any new agreement, and Iran would need guarantees that a future US administration would not revoke it. Securing congressional approval—which the Obama administration did not seek for the JCPOA—would strengthen such an agreement. This would require addressing major concerns of US legislators, such as the longevity of Iran's commitments, which Iranian officials have indicated they are open to discussing if certain other conditions, notably an "economic ceasefire," were met.

That said, any future deal with Iran should still be an arms-control agreement that is not overburdened with other contentious matters. Issues regarding sovereignty, security, and safety, such as the use and arming of militant proxies, missile proliferation, or the safety of waterways, would be best addressed in a regional context.

Given the recent interest of most regional actors in de-escalating tensions, now may be the right time to go beyond bilateral talks and initiate a regional Conference on Confidence-Building, Security, and Cooperation. Such a process would complement renewed and probably lengthy nuclear negotiations between Iran and the major international powers.

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(Exclusive to The Daily Star)



European Union diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini speaks during a debate on US President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal at the European Parliament on June 12, 2018. PHOTO: FREDERICK FLORIN/AFP

before November's US presidential election; and it almost certainly would not survive a second Trump term. This realisation underpins the slowly emerging consensus, not only among the agreement's European signatories, that a post-JCPOA arrangement needs to be considered. Although UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has called for a "Trump deal" with Iran, the E3 leaders have jointly spoken of the need to define a "long-term framework for Iran's nuclear programme."

Counter-intuitive as it may seem, current regional dynamics could provide

to Yemen's Houthis and to Qatar, and the Saudis and Iranians (through third parties) to each other.

At the time of last August's G7 summit in Biarritz, even Trump and the Iranian regime seemed prepared for some form of diplomatic engagement. Although hardliners in Tehran and Washington prevented further progress, the so-called Swiss track subsequently led to a prisoner exchange between Iran and the US, demonstrating that, with help from friends or partners, basic bilateral understandings are possible. Trump even thanked Iran "on a very fair negotiation," and called it a "precursor to what can be done."



# What really happened in Bhashantek?

## Rethinking resettlement of the urban poor

EfADUL HUQ

BETWEEN 1998 and 2010, the government of Bangladesh facilitated the construction of an affordable housing complex budgeted at Tk 341.65 crores for urban slum dwellers. However, today slum dwellers occupy only a minute fraction of the apartments allocated for them. What led to the failure of the government’s well-intended plan to house some of Dhaka’s working-poor citizens? On a related note, are high-rise apartments the solution to our city’s growing informal settlements? The project in question, Bhasantek Rehabilitation Project (BRP), proves that producing housing through public-private partnership is not impossible in Dhaka. At the same time, the long-running imbroglio of BRP shows how well-intentioned policy responses end up excluding and punishing the most vulnerable in the

officials. In its present incomplete state, BRP consists of 18 buildings out of which six are allocated for informal settlement dwellers. The type-A flats in these buildings are 215 square feet with one room, a kitchen and a toilet. After a five-year pause from the project’s first announcement, the Ministry of Land signed a contract with a private developer, North South Property Development Limited (NSPDL) in September 2003. Earlier that year, before the construction began, the Ministry of Land attempted to evict Bhasantek dwellers. Under the direct involvement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Ministry of Land halted the eviction. Laid out over 49.7 acres of land that the National Housing Authority acquired, BRP was set to be completed at the end of 2009. But BRP construction and implementation under NSDPL was riddled with so many violations that a formal private-public resettlement

lower-paid government employees, professionals in private sectors, and small businessmen. An article in an English daily reported that NSDPL made an additional Tk 300 million in profit from selling flats in BRP. During this time when frustrated Bhasantek dwellers organised and went to occupy the BRP compounds, the police pushed them back. With far too many of Bhashantek’s informal settlement dwellers waiting for the promise of housing to materialise and government resources having flowed into private hands, the Ministry of Land finally cancelled their agreement with NSDPL in October 2010. Whether NSDPL faced any fines or consequences remain unknown. Despite this long-drawn fiasco, there is no national council working to monitor and ensure slum dweller’s housing rights to this day. When BRP started in 2003, the Bhashantek settlement sheltered 3,260 households according to the

apartments. The rule is there to make sure that the allotments only go to those with long residence. However, the age bar fails to account for people born or raised in the area who may have lost their senior family members. Mohammad Nazrul Islam, a now 40-year-old rickshaw puller, grew up in Bhasantek but could not apply for the flats in 2012. During the application process, government officials have been rigid and insensitive to the needs of slum-dwelling applicants. Officials exaggerated minor flaws to procedurally exclude slum dwellers from BRP. For instance, 70-year-old Felu Mia, who’s been living in Bhasantek for about 40 years, applied for the flats in 2012 but was denied on grounds that he had forgotten to sign the application. “If they just asked me to sign the papers, I could have signed them,” he pointed out. While filled out forms were rejected due to minor omissions, there are reports that people from outside Dhaka were able to buy flats in BRP through fake residence forms. Several slum dwellers claim they missed their chance to apply for the flats in 2012 due to lack of funds, but they can afford to make the down payments now if given the opportunity. It should be noted that the government had opened up the application process once more in 2015 but this was soon stopped without explanation. Most importantly, the 215 square feet flats are unworkable for joint families of 5-7 members. Mohammad Saiful Islam, who lives with his wife in one of the flats, said that both his sons and their families still live in the slum. BRP is also unsuitable for economic activities through which dwellers survive. Saiful Islam used to sell vegetables but now such activities have been disallowed in the BRP compound. Having lost his source of earning, Islam is unable to pay for utilities and service charges for the flat. His gas bill has been doubled even though his household does not receive gas regularly. Ain O Salish Kendra reported that many slum dwellers who received the flats ultimately rented them

management, and an equitable process. Apartments left entirely to the management of dwellers do not usually work in the long run. Third, Dhaka persists in its growth as a megacity. The United Nations projections suggest that Dhaka’s population will be over 27 million in 2030. At present, the private market provides housing for the middle to upper income residents, while over a million urban dwellers (in conservative estimates) are compelled to live in informal settlements that they build and maintain without any direct support from the government and under constant threat of tenure insecurity. Let’s just return to the case of Bhasantek. Over the years, the informal settlement dwellers of Bhasantek have grown. According to the 2014 Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics survey of slum population, Bhasantek settlement’s households increased to 5,482 (compared to 3,260 households in 2003). How many apartment complexes will the government build to house Dhaka’s growing informal settlement dwellers? Dealing with the predicament of informal settlement dwellers is nothing new around the globe. UN-Habitat has put forward ample evidence to support in-situ slum upgrading as the most viable and equitable solution for the world’s urban poor. After all, it is informal settlements that are affordable, walkable, and flexible neighbourhoods for the urban poor. It is in these informal settlements that the city authorities and the poor residents can incrementally build drainage, sanitation, roads, houses, schools, clinics, gardens, shops, etc., at a pace that’s technically and financially feasible for them. In such cases, the city is not burdened with having to provide urban services everywhere all at once, and hard-working people get to decide what’s to be upgraded based on their local needs. It is crucial that Dhaka’s urban policymakers and housing advocates recognise the informal housing sector as the single largest supplier of inclusionary housing in the city and



The city’s Bhasantek area after the National Housing Authority carried out an eviction drive at the slum in February of 2019.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

absence of community participation, independent monitoring, and a deeper understanding of urban informality. As slum dwellers continue to be evicted without resettlement throughout Dhaka whether by unannounced demolitions or unexplained fires, the failure of BRP provides valuable lessons for seriously considering equitable and inclusive pathways for resolving the city’s housing predicaments. Through the 1990s Dhaka’s market housing supply lagged behind the housing needs of Dhaka’s growing population, particularly poor urban migrants. To continue living in the shadows of governmental and market neglect, the urban poor built their own housing in informal settlements more commonly stigmatised as “slums” or “bostis”. Although slum and informal settlements are conflated in everyday parlance, they are actually different. Slum refers to poor housing condition and often illegal status, whereas informal settlements are seen as a mode of urbanisation based on poor people’s skills, resources, and knowledge. From the latter perspective, Dhaka’s poor have participated in creating the capital city through their dwelling and livelihood practices. Not recognising the collective capacity of poor urban dwellers, the government has put effort into solving poor people’s housing problem through resettlement in the past decades. For instance, the government had successfully undertaken the Baunia Badh Bosti resettlement between 1990-1996 for 2,600 families. In comparison the BRP was unprecedented in its sheer scale. BRP promised to provide housing to nearly 100,000 urban poor in its over 15,000 apartment units. BRP was designed for informal settlement (“slum”) dwellers and low-income people from across the city, where low-income referred to third and fourth category low-earning government

*Researchers claimed that the majority of these buyers were government employees and politically influential individuals related to the Ministry of Land, employees of utilities services, police officials and staff of BRP, who in turn rented out the apartments.*

project had been transformed into a large-scale informal operation of profit-making on public land received at no cost. A 2010 parliamentary investigation found that NSDPL sold the apartments at prices higher than agreed in contracts and without consulting with the Ministry of Land. Among other irregularities, NSDPL charged extra for utilities and sold the application forms and accepted applicants’ down payment in their own office as opposed to in the bank. Perhaps most importantly, NSDPL had completed only 20 percent of the entire project by the end of 2009. Two separate research studies also found that NSDPL sold the apartments at much higher prices and with a shorter instalment time to quickly make profit. Researchers claimed that the majority of these buyers were government employees and politically influential individuals related to the Ministry of Land, employees of utilities services, police officials and staff of BRP, who in turn rented out the apartments to

National Housing Authority. A national organisation, the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), filed a writ on behalf of three of the residents here for resettlement of these households, which is now up for hearing. In the absence of any enforceable housing rights framework for the urban poor, this public interest litigation (PIL) is critical as the judgement could set precedent for similar scenarios in the future. When the 864 type-A flats went up for allocation in 2012, the government claimed that they allotted those flats to 849 informal settlement dwellers. However, Ain O Salish Kendro’s 2019-20 investigation revealed that only 218 informal settlement dwellers received apartments in 2012. Aside from excluding deserving households nearest to the project, the 2012 allocation was beset with problems of unaffordability, procedural exclusion, and spatial inadequacy. Initially, the Ministry of Land set the type-A apartment prices at Tk 1.90 lakhs and later increased the price to Tk 5 lakhs. The majority of informal settlement dwellers could not afford these nominal prices from the start. Many of those that could afford to pay the monthly instalments (Tk 1,125) for 10 years could not make the down payment of Tk 65,000 without any external financial support. For instance, resident Makbul Hossain, who’s been living in Bhasantek settlement since 1974 when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assisted poor dwellers from different areas of Dhaka to settle in the area, said, “How can I even dare to apply for these apartments? Where’s the money? People who have party affiliations, power, they are the ones getting the apartments. The slum is what works for poor people like us.” Residents who are less than 35 years old are not eligible to apply for the



A woman and her children carry away their belongings while the National Housing Authority conducts an eviction drive at the Bhasantek slum in February of 2019.


PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

out or sold the apartments and returned to other slums. What can housing policymakers, advocates, and planners learn from Bhasantek? First, the long-running BRP design and implementation lacked community participation and independent monitoring, which translated into exclusion of deserving households from the project’s start to present. Second, apartment-style resettlement plans do not by themselves work for slum dwellers. Housing is about a bundle of services (employment, healthcare, education etc.), and not merely the physical shelter itself. Within informal settlements, dwellers can add rooms to their houses as family size increases or add more space for business. Apartments do not always provide the spatial flexibility that is necessary for the urban poor’s survival in an iniquitous city. In cases like Singapore, the success of apartment-based resettlement is due to tremendous state subsidies, exceptional

support informal settlements through policies, laws, infrastructure, finances, and resources. Policymakers and advocates should recognise existing informal settlement dweller groups and associations as social units that can acquire, own, and manage urban land for housing. As “slums” are demolished or wait for demolition, from Duaripara to Korail, as “slums” burn from Kalsbi to Chalanika, as the failed Bhasantek stands with good intentions, as mayors and councillors take office with promises to turn Dhaka into an “intelligent city”, “a top-class metropolis”, and “a tourist hub”, we need an honest answer to a collective question: Are we creating a humane Dhaka? Are we creating a Dhaka that recognises the ingenuity and rights of those neglected others on whose backs the city stands?

EfADUL HUQ is doing his PhD on Urban and Regional Planning at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is a Visiting Researcher at International Centre for Climate Change and Development.

ON THIS DAY  
IN HISTORY



(February 16, 1959)  
**Power in Cuba Seized by Fidel Castro**

After defeating the forces of dictator General Fulgencio Batista, Fidel Castro became premier of Cuba this day in 1959 and transformed the island country into the Western Hemisphere’s first communist state.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Hand makeup

6 Lower in esteem

11 Tennis star

12 Like some messages

13 Smooth transition

14 Breaks, perhaps

15 Zoo resident

17 Mamie’s mate

18 Toddy base

19 Small falcon

22 Notice

23 Tub user

24 Right now

25 Polish city

27 Match part

30 Innocence

31 French article

32 Flamenco cry

33 Juice choice

35 Tourist stop

38 Filer’s worry

39 Game setting

40 Witch

41 Bookish, perhaps

42 Raring to go

DOWN

1 French film

2 Broad way

3 Ruling group

4 Oil container

5 It might be

6 Play division

7 Frilly wrap

8 Look up to

9 Harry Potter’s position in Quid-ditch

10 Collectible car

16 Results in

20 Belmont, e.g.

21 Quaker’s pronoun

24 Hebrew letter

25 In abundance

26 Would-be loser

27 Bright solar illusion

28 Diesel invention

29 Wobble

30 “—is an island”

34 Mystique

36 Purpose

37 Place down

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

YESTERDAY’S ANSWERS

J	A	C	K	S		B	A	C	O	N
A	L	O	N	E		A	G	O	N	Y
M	I	N	E	R		H	E	N	C	E
		T	A	F		S	T	E	T	
C	O	R	D		A	J	A	R		
A	L	A		O	R	I	G	A	M	I
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R	E	N	T	S		S	A	N	D	Y

BEEBLE BAILEY

by Mort Walker



WOOF WOOF

I AGREE. WE REALLY DON'T NEED ANOTHER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SARGE READS A LOT INTO OTTO'S "WOOF'S"

BABY BLUES

by Kirkman & Scott



NOM, CAN WE HAVE PIZZA ROLLS FOR DINNER?

SURE.

YAWN!

WHY? DID WE BREAK NOU?

SHH! I'M IN RECHARGE MODE.



# Scientists see through human organs for the first time

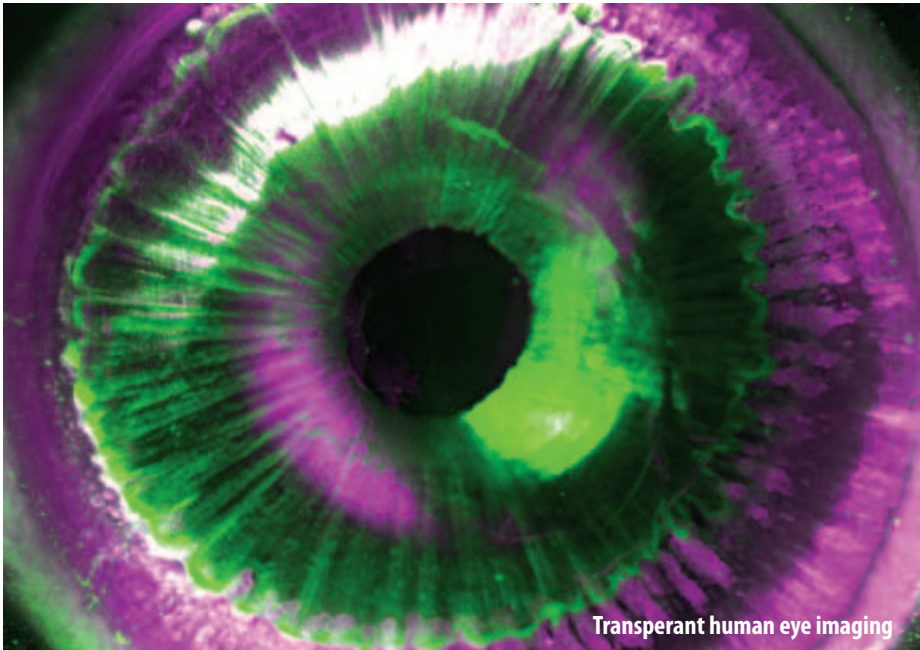
Transparent human organs allow 3D maps at the cellular level

STAR HEALTH REPORT

For the first time, researchers managed to make intact human organs transparent. Using microscopic imaging they could reveal underlying complex structures of the see-through organs at the cellular level. Resulting organ maps can serve as templates for 3D-bioprinting technologies. In the future, this could lead to the creation of on demand artificial organs for many patients in need. The findings published in Cell joined forces from Helmholtz Zentrum München, Ludwig Maximilians University Munich (LMU), and Technical University of Munich (TUM).

In biomedical research, seeing is believing. Deciphering the structural complexity of human organs has always been a major challenge due to the lack of technologies to image them at the cellular level. Recent developments in tissue clearing allowed researchers to obtain first cellular views of intact transparent mouse organs in 3D. These methods, however, were not applicable to human organs.

Human organs are particularly stiff due to accumulation of insoluble molecules including collagen in tissues that have grown for years or even decades. Thus, traditional detergents that are used for making mouse organs transparent do not work on human organs, particularly adult ones. "We had to change our approach completely and start from scratch to find



new chemicals which can make human organs transparent," says Shan Zhao, PhD student at Helmholtz Zentrum München and first author of the study. After exhausting trials, the team discovered that a detergent called CHAPS could make small holes throughout the entire stiff human organs. CHAPS allows additional solutions to travel deep into centimetres-thick human organs and convert them into a transparent structure.

After making the human organs transparent, which were obtained post mortem from Prof Ingo Bechmann's lab at the University of Leipzig, the team had to tackle additional challenges for both organ imaging and the analysis of the large amount of resulting data. First, they developed a new laser-scanning microscope with a large sample holding capacity called "Ultramicroscope Blaze" in collaboration with Miltenyi Biotec.

This microscope enabled imaging of human organs as large as the kidney. Next, together with Prof. Bjoern Menze from TUM, the team developed deep learning algorithms to be able to analyse hundreds of millions of cells in 3D.

The researchers named this new technology SHANEL (Small-micelle-mediated Human organ Efficient clearing and Labelling). "SHANEL can develop into a key technology for mapping intact human organs in the near future. This would dramatically accelerate our understanding of organs such as the brain, their development and function in health and disease," explains Dr. Ali Ertürk, Director of the Institute for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine at Helmholtz Zentrum München.

Now, the final goal is 3D-bioprinting of artificial organs. Cellular maps of human organs could be used to engineer large scale human tissues and organs with emerging 3D-bioprinting technologies. Towards this goal, Ertürk and his team are currently working on mapping major human organs, starting with the pancreas, heart and kidney.

"There is a huge shortage of organ donors for hundreds of thousands of people," says Ertürk. "The waiting time for patients and the transplantation costs are a real burden. Detailed knowledge about the cellular structure of human organs brings us an important step closer to creating functional organs artificially on demand."

## CORONAVIRUS



### Clinical characteristics of COVID-19

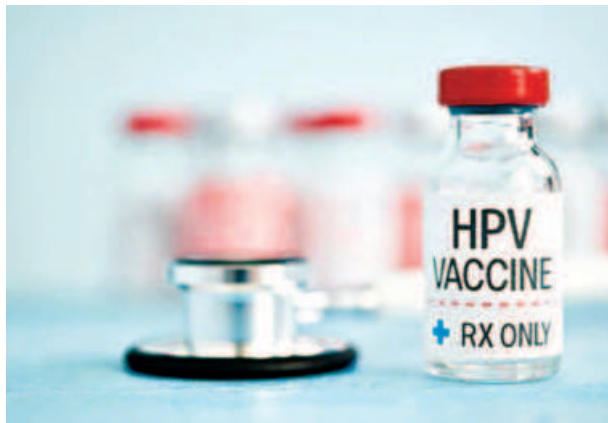
The clinical spectrum of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection is still being defined. Now, investigators describe the characteristics of 99 people with confirmed 2019-nCoV pneumonia who were admitted to one infectious diseases specialty hospital between January 1 and 20, 2020, in Wuhan, China.

The patients' average age was 55; two thirds were men; 47 had long-term exposure (e.g., salesmen, market managers) and 2 had short-term exposure (shoppers) to the Huanan seafood market. About 50% had chronic conditions, most commonly cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases (40%). At hospital admission, symptoms and signs included fever (83%), cough (82%), and shortness of breath (31%); few patients had sore throat, rhinorrhoea, or gastrointestinal symptoms (≤5% each). Laboratory findings included liver function abnormalities (43%) and lymphopaenia (35%).

On chest x-ray or computed tomography, 75% had evidence of bilateral pneumonia; 1 person had a pneumothorax. Complications at time of presentation included acute respiratory distress syndrome (17%), acute kidney injury (3%), and septic shock (4%). By January 25, 11 patients (11%) had died. Seven of the deaths were in people over 60 years old.

This case series suggests that severe disease due to 2019-nCoV infection is most likely to occur in older people with comorbid conditions, as is the case with influenza and many other infectious diseases.

## HEALTH bulletin



### Just one dose of HPV vaccine may help prevent cervical disease

A single dose of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is associated with a significant reduction in cervical disease, according to a retrospective study in *Cancer*. The CDC generally recommends two doses for those vaccinated between ages 9 and 14, and three doses for those vaccinated later.

Using a U.S. insurance claims database, researchers matched nearly 67,000 females aged 9 to 26 who received at least one dose of the quadrivalent HPV vaccine with 67,000 unvaccinated controls.

The estimated rate of preinvasive cervical disease at 5 years was 2.65% in the unvaccinated group, versus 1.62%, 1.99%, and 1.86% among those who received one, two, and three vaccine doses, respectively, between ages 15 and 19. After multivariable adjustment, one vaccine dose was associated with a 36% risk reduction; two doses, a 28% reduction; and three doses, a 34% reduction.

Editorialists say the findings "add to the growing evidence suggesting that there may truly be no major difference in protection against cervical preinvasive lesions ... conferred by 1, 2, or 3 doses of HPV vaccination."

## Coronavirus: Should you be scared?

DR GOLAM NABI

Coronavirus is the latest topic globally and people are becoming scared day by day. It indeed is a matter of concern, but you do not have to be scared about it so much. Since the origin of the virus in Wuhan, China, more than 65,000 people are affected so far and almost 1400 had grave consequences, but the rest of the world is not affected as much because of alertness and early warning.

This coronavirus is mainly carried by the animals and it can be transmitted from animals to animals, animals to humans and humans to humans. Similar kind of viruses have also infected people in the past, in the form of SARS-CoV (the beta coronavirus that causes Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS) and MERS-CoV (the beta coronavirus that causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, or MERS), and the world has contained its infection successfully.

Coronavirus is mainly transmitted by inhalation and infects the respiratory tract, but not all infected people get the symptoms. Our body's immune system fights against this virus and we do not suffer, some people get mild sickness but mostly it is cleared by the immune system. A person who has a weak immune system or for some reason has compromised immune system e.g. has diabetes, respiratory diseases like asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart and kidney transplant, receiving chemotherapy or suffering from any sort of cancer are most vulnerable. Children and elderly people are also vulnerable due to relatively weaker immune system. The healthy adults are at low risk of infection.

**How to know if you are infected:** You have to inhale the virus from an affected person and after the incubation period of 10 – 14 days you may suffer from running nose, sneezing, sore throat, cough, mild fever, headache, and body ache. Most people recover from these symptoms within a week. But children and those who have other diseases may suffer severe symptoms

the earliest possible time seek medical help.

Awareness is very important to prevent unnecessary fear about coronavirus. Social media has a great role to make people alert. Frequent advisories should be broadcasted on television, radio, and newspapers. All entry ports of the country should be well equipped to screen the travellers arriving from abroad.



like severe cough, high temperature, severe respiratory distress, coughing of blood, difficulty in breathing similar severe pneumonia.

**What to do if you are infected:** Immediately report to the nearest hospital, if it is not possible to stay at home, take paracetamol tablets to control fever, keep your body well hydrated, and within

There should be an isolation ward in every hospital to isolate the affected patient. A team of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals in every hospital should be ready round the clock to deal with the emergency if it occurs.

The writer is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Z H Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital, Dhaka.



### BP drugs, statins might be replacing healthy lifestyle changes

Adults who start blood pressure- or lipid-lowering therapy may use these medications as substitutes for healthy lifestyle changes, according to a study in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*.

Researchers studied over 41,000 Finnish adults aged 40 and older (84% women) who were free of cardiovascular disease at baseline. Participants completed multiple lifestyle questionnaires from 2000 through 2013, and pharmacy records were examined to identify the start of antihypertensive or statin therapy.

After multivariable adjustment, participants who began either treatment during the study were significantly more likely than those who did not to become obese. They were also more likely to become inactive. One unhealthy behaviour did decline among those who started these medications — cigarette smoking.

The researchers call for more effective strategies to encourage lifestyle changes in patients beginning preventive medications. They cite U.S. guidelines, which recommend cognitive-behavioural methods, multidisciplinary approaches, and consideration of the individual's social determinants of health.

  /StarHealthBD

## How the order you eat your food affects your health!

### Recent Research Reveals

Starting a meal by eating vegetables and protein and finishing it with carbohydrates, keeps us fuller than if we ate same foods in reverse order

Protein slows down release of sugar from carbohydrates into the blood stream

When diabetics ate vegetables and proteins first, their blood sugar levels were 29% lower 30 minutes later compared to when they ate the carbohydrates first



"Starting your meal with vegetables and protein and finishing with carbohydrates could help maintain body weight"

American Diabetes Association

ORION  
Pharma Ltd.

In Search of Excellence



WHAT'S ON



**Art Camp**  
Title: 4th Annual Art for Autism 2020  
Venue: Charukola, University of Dhaka  
Date: February 22  
Time: 8:30 am – 3pm



**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



**Art Exhibition**  
Title: In/Out of the stones of our mind  
Venue: Dwp Gallery  
Date: February 19-29  
Time: 3pm to 9 pm (February 19 from 6pm to 9pm)



**Art Exhibition**  
Title: Parampara  
Venue: Gallery Chitrak  
Date: February 15-29  
Time: 10 am – 8 pm



(From left) the featured singers -- Smoron, Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, Anupoma Mukti, Sabuj and Dr Alif Laila perform at the event.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# Star Melodies heralds the Spring with romantic songs

ZAHANGIR ALOM

Star Melodies, an initiative of *The Daily Star* to promote Bangla music, hosted a musical soiree titled, *Bhalobashar Akhore Lekha Boshonter Gaan*, featuring songs about romance and spring-- the season of love. Sponsored by Dhaka Bank Limited, the event was held yesterday at A S Mahmud Hall of The Daily Star Centre.

Renowned Tagore exponent Fahim Hossain Chowdhury, talented playback singer Anupoma Mukti, along with promising singers Sabuj, Dr Alif Laila and Smoron performed songs at the event. Sadya Afreen Mallick, Chief of Culture Initiatives, The Daily Star, hosted and coordinated the programme.

The evening began with a chorus performance of the song, *Moder Gorob Moder Asha*, penned and composed by Atulprasad Sen.

Fahim Hossain Chowdhury first took the stage and rendered the Tagore song, *Amar Praner Pore Chole Gelo Ke*. He later entertained the music lovers with his melodic voice, presenting the evergreen numbers, *Ektuku Chhnoa Laage*, a Hemanta Mukherjee record, *Boshe Achhi Potho Cheye*, and *Amar Swapne Dekha Rajkonna Thake*, a Shyamal Mitra classic.

Mingling romance with melodic euphoria, Anupoma Mukti performed



The audience enjoys melodic proceedings at the soiree.

several popular songs at the event, including *Modhu Malati Dakey Aay*, a Sandhya Mukherjee record, *O Polash O Shimul*, a Lata Mangeshkar classic, and the Runa Laila record, *Amar Mon Boley Tumi Ashbe*. Mukti's presentation of the songs seemingly won hearts of many.

Dr Alif Laila marvellously presented the romantic song, *Abar Bhalobashar Sadh Jagey*, written and composed by

the National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. She later performed a Nachiketa Ghosh composition, *Mayaboti Megh-e Elo Tandira*, which was first recorded by Sandhya Mukherjee. The singer wrapped up her solo session with Shah Abdul Karim's *Bosonto Batashey Shoi Go*. The audience warmly received Alif Laila's folk numbers.

Sabuj captivated the audience as he

melodiously performed, *Hai Borosha Emon Phagun Kere Niona*, which was penned by Pulak Bandyopadhyay and composed was first recorded by Satinath Mukherjee. His rendition of the popular Sachin Dev Burman song, *Borne Gondhe Chhonde Geetite*, was a melodic treat. The singer also sang Tapan Chowdhury's hit number, *Polash Phutechhe Shimul Phutechhe*.

Promising singer Smoron began her solo performance with Jatileshwar Mukherjee's *Tomar Songe Dekha Na Hole*. She beautifully rendered the Subhamita Banerjee record, *Tomar Kachhe Phagun Cheyechhe Krishnachura*, written and composed by Goutam Ghosal. The artiste also presented Madhuri Chattopadhyay's *Gungun Phagun Shesh Hole*, which pleased the listeners.

Sabuj and Smoron's duet performance of *Tumi Saat Sagorer Opar Hote*, written by Gazi Mazharul Anwar and composed by Anwar Parvez, was well received by the audience. The song was originally recorded by late singers Abdul Jabbar and Shahnaz Rahmatullah.

The soiree concluded with the presentation of the timeless song, *Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano Ekushey February*, written by Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury and composed by Altaf Mahmud, as a tribute to the martyrs of 1952 Language Movement.

## EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT Bakhtiar Hossain serenades with words in 'Ekdin Ekta Kobitar Boi Hobe'

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Even though Bakhtiar Hossain is best known as the vocalist of ace rock band, Bay of Bengal, he is a man of many talents. The multi-instrumentalist is also an avid painter, writer, artistic director and sound designer.



PHOTO: COURTESY

*Ekdin Ekta Kobitar Boi Hobe* is his first release in the Ekushey Boi Mela 2020. "I have been writing poetry for quite a while, but did not think that I would end up publishing a book as such," says Bakhtiar, who feels that he could write with a lot more freedom while penning his poems. "When I write a song, I have to keep multiple aspects in mind, such as composition, tune and rhythm. In such sense, writing poetry feels liberating."

*Ekdin Ekta Kobitar Boi Hobe* highlights aspects we tend to overlook in our day-to-day lives, which is a recurring theme in the book. Would we see Bakhtiar as a regular feature in the Ekushey Boi Mela? "Well, I do write a lot," smiles Bakhtiar, "There might be more publications in the near future." The book, published by Pendulum, is available at their stall (271), at the Ekushey Boi Mela and can be purchased at a discounted price of BDT 135.



Commemorating the Ekushey Padak winning classical musician Pandit Barin Mazumder on his 99th birth anniversary, the Government Music College (GMC) organised 'Pandit Barin Mazumder Shongit Utshob-2020', at their premises in Agargaon, on February 14. The celebration hosted performances by renowned musicians, organisations and students of GMC.



Children from Scholastica School's junior campus presenting an adorable performance on their Annual Sports Day, which took place recently. The occasion was a joyous celebration of youthful jubilation, shared by the teachers, students and guardians alike.

## Kibria International Print Fair 2020 concludes

ZAHANGIR ALOM

The 9th edition of Kibria International Print Fair, which began on February 13, concluded yesterday at Zainul Gallery, Faculty of Fine Art (FFA), University of Dhaka (DU). Kibria International Print Fair Organising Committee and Kibria Printmaking Studio jointly organised the fair as a tribute to the abstract art master and eminent printmaker Mohammad Kibria.

Prominent and emerging printmakers from various institutes, organisations, and studios exhibited their works at the fair. Former Minister of Cultural Affairs and prominent actor Asaduzzaman Noor, MP, inaugurated the programme as chief guest, while art maestros Professor Rafiqun Nabi and Monirul Islam, along with Dr Tanim Ud Dowlah, attended the event as special guests. Renowned printmaker Professor Syed Abul Barq Alvi, convener of the organising committee of the fair, presided over the inaugural ceremony. Professor Nisar Hossain, Dean, FFA, DU, delivered welcome address while, noted artist Rashid Amin, Chairman of the Department of Fine Arts, Jagannath University, hosted the event.

"I have had the privilege of meeting many great personalities, including artists, litterateurs, poets, politicians and intellectuals. I believe, this is the major achievement of my life," said Asaduzzaman Noor. "The history of our glorious movements of the 60s revolved around arts and artists. We used to go to the hostel of the Dhaka Art College where I used to write posters, banners and more. Kibria Sir, who was the superintendent of the hostel at that time, would inspire and suggest us in many ways."

Monirul Islam said, "Many do not give importance to print media. However, there

is a lot of labour behind it. The language it expresses is completely different from other art forms. On the other hand, I am proud to see how Bangladeshi artists are showcasing their work abroad."

Acclaimed printmaker-painter AKM Alamgir Haque was honoured with the lifetime award for his significant contribution to the medium at the inaugural programme. He received a crest and an honorarium of BDT 50,000.

Department of Printmaking, FFA, DU, Painting-Oriental-Printmaking Department,

Faculty of Fine Arts, Rajshahi University, Printmaking Discipline, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Khulna, along with Department of Fine Arts, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Department of Fine Arts, Jagannath University, Printmaking Studio, Department of Fine Arts, University of Development Alternative, Cosmos Atelier '71, Kalidas Printmaking Studio, Studio 48, Karkhana Art Space, Bangladesh Printmakers Association, Flame Arts Open Studio and Kibria Printmaking Studio, among others, participated in the fair.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED





Palestinian youths from the village of Deir Nizam, northwest of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, clash with Israeli soldiers yesterday, after removing cement blocks set-up by the army at the village entrance.

PHOTO:  
AFP

## Pope Francis sides with traditionalists on priest celibacy

AFP, Vatican City

In quashing the idea of married priests in the Amazon, Pope Francis has appeased traditionalists while disappointing progressives who had hoped for a historic turning point in the Catholic church.

In his “apostolic exhortation” on the Amazon basin published Wednesday, Francis slammed the door on a progressive proposal offered by the region’s bishops during a synod on the region in October.

The synod had suggested that the way to solve a shortage of priests in the remote and inaccessible area was to allow married indigenous men to become priests.

Without even mentioning that proposal, Francis instead argued for more missionary priests in the Amazon and for women and lay people to take on larger roles, falling short of another synod idea to ordain women as deacons in the region.

The Argentine pontiff’s thoughts, coming after months of speculation and hand-wringing within the Vatican, were welcomed by some, including a vocal opponent of Francis, German Cardinal Gerhard Mueller.

## Google mulls

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ads alongside their news articles, including “snippets” in search results.

Contacted by AFP Friday, Google indicated it is seeking new ways to help publishers.

“We want to help people find quality journalism -- it’s important to informed democracy and helps support a sustainable news industry,” Google vice president of news Richard Gingras said in a statement.

“We care deeply about this and are talking with partners and looking at more ways to expand our ongoing work with publishers, building on programs like our Google News Initiative.”

The Wall Street Journal reported earlier Friday Google was considering deals for a “premium” news product.

The California tech giant has remained steadfast about not paying for news article links displayed in search results and is not changing that position, people familiar with the matter told AFP.

It has argued that it drives traffic to news websites and thereby helps those publishers get ad revenues.

Google’s News Initiative works with publishers to encourage readership and paid subscriptions to their offerings.

Facebook, which has been hit with similar criticism, last year launched a dedicated “news tab” with professionally-produced content -- a move by the social network to promote journalism and shed its reputation as a platform for misinformation.

Facebook was expected to pay some of the news organizations, reportedly millions of dollars in some cases.

The move by Google comes amid pressure to comply with a European copyright directive on content in search results.

Google said last year it would not pay European media outlets for using their articles, pictures and videos in its searches in France, the first country to ratify the copyright directive, raising the prospect of legal action against the internet titan.

The tech giant said it would only display content in its search engine results and on Google News from media groups who had given their permission for it to be used for free.

## ‘No complacency’

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them to be vigilant against the machinations of provocateurs and conspirators, and work unitedly as disciplined soldiers to defend the integrity of the country and maintain law and order.

The freedom fighters must not become complacent after the liberation of the country. They should work with dedication and courage for the preservation of the hard-won freedom, he adds.

**TALKS WITH PAK ONLY AFTER RECOGNITION**

In reply to Indonesia’s offer of holding peace talks between Bangladesh and Pakistan, the Mujib government has reiterated its stance that any talks between the two must be preceded by Rawalpindi recognising Bangladesh as an independent sovereign state.

Dr Adam Malik, foreign minister of Indonesia, had recently offered Jakarta, or any other place in

Indonesia, to the governments of Bangladesh and Pakistan as a venue for ‘peace talks.’

**SOVIET YOUTH TEAM CALLS ON MUJIB**

A four-member Soviet youth delegation calls on Bangabandhu at the Prime Minister’s official residence. The leader of the delegation, Gafur Janov, requests Bangabandhu to visit Uzbekistan during his forthcoming visit to the Soviet Union.

**JAPAN OFFERS TO HOST SUMMIT**

Japanese PM Eisaku Sato offers to host a summit meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh and President Bhutto of Pakistan. The offer was made during a discussion between Sato and Bangladesh’s special envoy MM Panni.

The Japan Red Cross Society decides to send USD 3,14,000 worth of relief goods to Bangladesh.

A four-member Japanese delegation, on behalf of the Asian

Parliamentary Union, calls on Bangabandhu today at his official residence. The Japanese delegation has come here to assess the economic situation in Bangladesh and examine where Japan can assist Bangladesh in her reconstruction work.

**3 MORE RECOGNITIONS FOR BANGLADESH**

Thailand, Singapore and the Central African Republic recognise Bangladesh. With the three countries announcing their decisions today, Bangladesh has now won recognition by 42 countries.

**SOVIET, INDIAN ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS**

Indian Ambassador Subimal Dutt and Soviet Ambassador VF Popov present their credentials to Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, president of Bangladesh.

**SOURCES:** February 17, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Daily Ittefaq, Azad, Morning News, The Bangladesh Observer and Purbodesh.

## Drop charges

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of expression under the draconian Digital Security Act (DSA).“

Nur, the owner of the Guardian Publications, was arrested on February 10, 2020 for “associating with” Enamul Haque Moni, who was arrested in 2018 for spreading “fake news and propaganda” about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her son Sajeeb Wazed, and committing digital fraud, the rights body said.

Sarker has been in prison for over a month on charges of “hurting religious sentiments” after he criticised Muslim clerics who oppose singing, it added.

“The government has the responsibility to protect the right to speech and expression, not use its internet laws as an excuse to go after singers who criticize clerics or anyone who criticises the prime minister or her family,” said Brad Adams, Asia director at the HRW.

“The ruling Awami League should not be silencing its critics,” he said.

Nur could face a sentence up to life in prison for charges under section 25 of the DSA, which criminalises publishing any content with the intention of “tarnishing the image of

the nation.”

He has also been charged under section 31, which criminalises publishing or broadcasting any content that “destroys communal harmony” or “deteriorates or threatens to deteriorate the law and order” which carries up to 10 years in prison.

These terms are so vague and broad that the authorities can essentially arrest critics at will, effectively chilling free speech, HRW observed.

The DSA was also used against the Shariat, for accusing Islamic clerics of misinterpreting the Quran to forbid music and for reportedly saying “Our great Prophet Muhammad was an ardent fan of music and went to sleep at night after listening to music.”

If convicted, Sarker could face 10 years in prison.

The Bangladesh government has ignored repeated calls from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United States, the European Union, journalists within Bangladesh and many others to bring the law in line with Bangladesh’s commitments under international law, said the HRW.

## Chinese, Vatican foreign ministers hold first meeting

AFP, Beijing

The foreign ministers of China and the Vatican have met in the first high-level encounter between the sides -- a new sign of improving relations between two states with no diplomatic ties.

The talks between China’s Wang Yi and Archbishop Paul Gallagher in the German city of Munich on Friday came as relations steadily improve following a landmark agreement on the appointment of bishops in 2018.

“Today is the first meeting between the Chinese and Vatican foreign ministers,” Wang said, according to the People’s Daily newspaper, a Communist Party mouthpiece.

“This is a continuation of the exchanges between China and the Vatican for a period of time. It will open up more space for the future exchanges between the two sides,” he said.

Wang, who met Gallagher on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, called the 2018 agreement “groundbreaking”, adding that it “has achieved positive results”.



Russia riot police officers detains an opposition activist during a protest rally against constitutional reforms in Saint Petersburg, yesterday. Last month Russian parliament’s lower house unanimously approved the constitutional reform bill, after less than two hours of debate.

PHOTO: AFP

# Police think

FROM PAGE 16

the three from their flat in a five-storey building. A hammer was recovered from near the woman’s body.

Talking to this newspaper, Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of DB (north), said, “The note recovered by police suggested some possible hints that Raquib was facing some financial problems due to having taken a huge loan.

“We will look into if there was any familial crisis due to the loan.”

Police were yet to trace Raquib, an official of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL).

“We will see why a BTCL official like him is burdened with a huge loan,” the DB official said.

Police sources said the note suggested that Raquib killed the trio so that none would have to take their responsibility after his demise and it also added where Raquib could be found.

Meanwhile, after conducting autopsies on the victims, doctors confirmed that the woman, Munni Rahman, 37, was beaten to death with a hammer, while the two children -- Farhan Uddin, 12, and Layeeva Bhuiyan, 3 -- were strangled.

The upper side of the three bodies were more decomposed. There were injury marks on the backside of the woman’s head and her two children were strangled,” Dr AKM Moinuddin, lecturer of the forensic medicine department of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, told reporters after conducting the autopsy around 4:00pm.

Doctor said they have collected viscera and blood samples from the three bodies for further reports.

Hafizur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of Uttara Division, said he had learnt about the note recovered from the house and the matter is being investigated by Dakshinkhan Police.

“We are investigating the incident using all possible clues,” he said.

The woman’s brother Munna Rahman will file a murder case in this connection soon, police said.

The detective branch of police is also investigating the murder beside local police.

The family had been living in the flat since 2011. Raquib was recently transferred to the BTCL’s Uttara office from Gulshan.

The deceased were buried at Banani graveyard yesterday.

**PHARMACIST KILLING: CASE FILED AGAINST TWO DIRECTORS; NO ARREST YET**

Family members of victim Mobarak Karim, 26, filed a murder case against two directors of Friendship Specialised

Hospital and Digital Diagnostic Centre, which is situated in Matuail of Dhaka.

The accused are: Jamal Hossain, 52, and Akhter Hossain Mamun, 39.

Mobarak worked as a pharmacist at Proactive Medical College Hospital, a private hospital in Narayanganj.

Family members alleged that Mobarak was murdered by the accused over money-related issues.

Mobarak’s body was found hanging from the window bar of Jamal’s room. He had injuries to the legs and the neck, autopsy reports show.

The family, however, referring to pictures of Mobarak point out that he was also grievously wounded on his back and midriff.

Victim’s brother Ruhul Amin filed the murder case with Demra Police Station on Friday night. Police are yet to arrest any of the accused.

Hailing from Lalmohon of Bhola, Mobarak used to live in the capital’s Kadamtali area with his wife.

On Thursday, Mobarak went to Jamal’s office at the hospital’s third floor around 3:00pm. There, he had a talk with Mamun over some monetary matters, according to the case statement.

Family members tried to reach Mobarak over phone from 9:00pm to 2:30am, but he didn’t pick up the calls. Later the next morning around 11:30am, they got the news of Mobarak’s death.

The victim’s family has also alleged that police initially refused to take a murder case, but finally relented after the intervention of a local political leader.

Denying the claim of negligence by police, Nasir Uddin, a sub-inspector of Demra Police Station, who is investigating the case, said both the accused are on the run.

“We have raided four addresses of the accused, but could not trace them yet,” the IO said, adding that drive is on to arrest the duo.

## Repression

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appealed to the government for Khaleda’s proper treatment and release as she was extremely sick.

Khaleda has been behind bars since February 8, 2018, when she was convicted in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

Later that year, she was found guilty in another graft case. However, her party claims both cases are politically motivated.

The BNP chief has been receiving treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) since April 1 last year.

## Polls system

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candidates remain proactive and they put extra effort to make their relatives and friends cast votes for them, he added.

“So, the [average] voter turnout of national elections can in no way surpass that of municipality polls,” he further said.

Akbar also said the EC should examine the turnout at each polling centre before declaring the election result.

If the turnout is 100 percent, 98 percent or even 95 percent, they should immediately suspend the voting on the grounds of “false votes”, he said.

If the EC can monitor voting results this way, then many irregularities will be found, he added.

On the use of electronic voting machines, he said it seems effective considering the technology.

However, there are controversies in many countries regarding the EVMs and it is necessary to be cautious about their use in Bangladesh, he added.

Ganosamhati Andolon Chief Coordinator Zonayed Saki said at present the countrymen are experiencing an “authoritarian electoral system”, adding that vote rigging had taken place in different elections. But people were unable to unearth the secret behind it because various confusions have risen.

He alleged that under the present situation, voters found it difficult to go to the polling centres.

Even if they could reach, there were “helpers” to stamp on the ballot paper or push the button on electronic voting machines, he added.

Terming election as the “first effective step” of democracy, Shujan Secretary and good governance campaigner Badiul Alam Majumdar said if polls are not held in fair manner then the overall democratic system will collapse.

Election is the only way to transit power in a peaceful manner. If that peace is obstructed, the country’s future will face uncertainty, he said.

At the programme, Shujan, as part of its council manifesto, placed a 20-point proposal to bring reforms in the country’s political arena.

One of the points is to bring changes in the country’s electoral system by introducing a “proportional representation” electoral system and make required amendments to the related laws to “regain people’s trust” regarding elections.

Shujan President and former

caretaker government adviser M Hafizuddin Khan said polls is a major component to ensure good governance but the country’s electoral system is now being marred.

“There is doubt whether we will see any free and fair election in the future,” he said, adding that, if needed, the countrymen have to work hard to re-establish a fair polls atmosphere in the country.

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumdar said making public polls candidates’ affidavits is a major reform in the country’s electoral system and Shujan’s campaign was significant behind it.

Referring to low voter turnouts, Supreme Court lawyer Advocate Rana Dasgupta said the country’s political parties should take people’s lack of enthusiasm in exercising voting rights into consideration with importance and find the reasons behind it.

Leftist politician Comrade Khalequzzaman of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Mohammad Nazrul Islam of Bangladesh Kalyan Party also spoke at the programme.

## US Border Patrol to send Tactical Unit officers to ‘sanctuary cities’

REUTERS, Washington

The Trump administration is deploying highly trained officers to boost arrests of unauthorized immigrants in a number of cities, including Los Angeles, Chicago and New York, the latest move in a battle against localities that adopt “sanctuary” policies to protect them from deportation.

Members of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s (CBP) Border Patrol Tactical Unit will be among the officers deployed to cities to assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE. They will also be sent to San Francisco, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, New Jersey, CBP spokesman Lawrence Payne said in a statement on Friday.

The Tactical Unit’s members undergo a “grueling” training program designed to “mirror aspects” of U.S. Special Operation Forces courses, according to details about the program published on the CBP website. The unit was launched in 1984 in response to rioting at immigration detention facilities.





Fishermen set large trap nets at Harinbaria canal in Taltali upazila, and, *inset*, in a char area of Padma village in Pathorghata upazila of Barguna although the authorities long ago banned the use of such nets, on the grounds that those pose threat to fish species.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

# Illegal nets pose threat to fish in coastal area

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A section of fishermen have continued catching fish with illegally set large trap nets in the rivers of the coastal area and the shore of the Bay of Bengal, posing threat to different species of marine as well as sweet water fish.

The callous act seems unstoppable despite frequent drives by the Coast Guard and the Department of Fisheries.

During this winter, fishing with the large trap nets, locally called chagara, behundi and ghopjals, is a common scene at the mouth of the Baleshwar, Payra and Bishkhali rivers adjoining the Bay, Lalদিয়া, Haringhata, Padma, Rohita, Chhoto Tengara and Charduani in Barguna's Pathorghata upazila, and Asharchar in Taltali upazila.

The banned nets are also used in Gangamati, Fatrar Char, and the char areas near the rivers of Mahipur area in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila.

In a recent visit to Gangamati, this correspondent saw with chagara nets spread in a large part of the beach area.

The trap net, each 300 to 400 metres long, and 1.5 to two metres high, is set on the slopes of the river and beach. Fish coming with high tide often get trapped there during the low tide. Ghopjal, a similar kind of net, is tied to poles set in the coastal areas of the Bay and mouth of rivers.

Located 12 km south of Pathorghata, Lalদিয়া Char is a coastal island in the Bay of Bengal. During the winter, different species of fish including the young ones are caught there with the banned nets.

Hiran, known as the owner of the largest ghopjal and chagara nets in Padma, Ruhita, Haringhata and Tengra areas of Pathorghata upazila, said, "I got permission to catch fish with the nets from Khulna last year. I have sold my nets. Now I'm not involved with it."

Nurul Islam, Kalam Mia and Abul Hossain, residents of Haringhata area of Pathorghata, said the administration should take a strong stand to stop use of chagara, ghopjals, and current nets to save fish stock in the coastal areas.

Zakir Hossain Miraj, proprietor of Sonatla Fisheries Hatchery in Pathorghata upazila, said, "The fish resources in our rivers will be threatened if those are caught with sparrow and snake nets [other names of the trap nets] in different rivers of

Barguna.

Rabindranath, acting district fisheries officer in Barguna, said they conduct regular drives against fishing with illegal nets in the rivers of the coastal areas of the district.

Biswajit Barua, Coast Guard's commander at Pathorghata, said, "Despite shortage of manpower, we often conduct joint operations to stop use of the banned nets. But a section of the fishermen are too reckless and cunning."

Barguna Deputy Commissioner Mostine Billah said, "We are sincerely trying to stop these unscrupulous fishermen. Alongside conducting drives, we also called them at various meetings to make them aware about the harmful effects of the fishing with these nets."

## Dinajpur JCD leader stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Unidentified criminals stabbed a Jatdiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader to death at Shukbebpur village in Bochaganj upazila on Friday night.

The deceased, Majnur Rahman, 32, son Obaidur Rahman of Dhontola village, was general secretary of Bochaganj upazila unit JCD.

Quoting locals, Officer in Charge of Bochaganj Police Station Ayub Ali said, a group of seven to eight unidentified criminals waylaid Majnur while he was crossing Shukbebpur village around 11:00am.

They stabbed him indiscriminately with sharp weapons and fled the scene, leaving him critically injured, he said.

Hearing cry for help, villagers rescued injured Majnur and admitted him to Bochaganj Upazila Health Complex, from where he was referred to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur.

He succumbed to his injuries on way to the hospital the same night, police said.

Meanwhile, victim's cousin Al Maruf Reza alleged that it was a planned murder.

The JCD leader might have been killed over personal feud, the OC said, adding that, being informed, they recovered the body and sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

## Stone crushing worker dies of silicosis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A silicosis-affected former stone-crushing labourer in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila died on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Momin Ali, 40, son of Sahidar Rahman of Ufarmara village in Pagram upazila, was the president of silicosis affected stone crushing labourers' compensation movement in Burimari land port area of Patgram.

He also was the plaintiff in one of the 62 compensation cases filed with Rajshahi Labour Court.

In a critical condition, he was admitted to Patgram Upazila Health Complex yesterday morning from where he was referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

But he died shortly after he started in an ambulance.

"Momin had been bedridden for a month but we could not arrange his treatment for lack of money. I went to public representatives, administrative officials, and stone traders for help, but none gave even a taka," said Sahidar Rahman.

Momin left the job at a stone crushing factory at Burimari land port after he got silicosis seven years ago. Treatment in Rangpur and Dhaka failed to cure him.

"Momin Bhai was our leader. He moved to different places in a bid to realise compensation for us. He used to look after labour court cases. Finally he expired, leaving us helpless," said Abul Kalam Azad, a stone-crushing labourer in the same village, also suffering from silicosis.

"The former employers abandoned us. Now the compensation seems far away," said Mahir Uddin of Khalpara village, also seriously ill with the same disease.

According to Burimari union parishad Chairman Abu Sayeed Newaz Nishat, 66 stone crushing workers died from silicosis in the last six to seven years.

"Hundreds others are affected, of them 70 critically ill. The workers got the deadly disease as the stone dust entered the lungs through the nose and mouth while crushing stones without using safety masks," he said.

Lalmonirhat Civil Surgeon Dr Kashem Ali told The Daily Star, "Silicosis infects the lungs and eventually leads to death. Treatment for this disease is given only at the Chest Diseases Hospital in Dhaka."

## Schoolgirl saved from early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A schoolgirl was saved from early marriage in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila of Friday night following timely intervention of local police.

Acting Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station Golam Mortuza said the marriage ceremony of a 16-year-old girl, also a Class X student at Thakurgaon Ideal High School, was set to take place in Shahapra of the municipality with one Raju Ahmed, 22, son of Abu Bakkar of Laututhi village, on Friday night.

On information, a team of police went to the bride's house and foiled the marriage.

They also asked the girl's guardian not to arrange her marriage before the age of 18.

## 14 students food poisoned in Kurigram

*They took pickles and jhalmuri from a street vendor*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 14 students of Chandipur Model Government Primary School in Kurigram's Nageshwari upazila fell sick after having unhygienic food from a street vendor yesterday morning.

All the victims, who took pickles and jhalmuri from a vendor in front of the school gate, were immediately admitted to Nageshwari Upazila Health Complex, a number of students and teachers said.

Medical Officer at the hospital Dr Abu Bakkar Siddique said the students fell sick as they might have taken rotten and unhygienic food or due to mass hysteria.

Sharifa Khatun, an assistant teacher of the institution, said at first as eighth grader suddenly started suffering from headache and vomiting during class hours before she fainted.

Within a short time, another 13 students of different classes started suffering from the same symptoms and fell sick, she added.

Being informed, they went to the spot and took the street vendor to the police station for quising, Officer in Charge of Nageshwari Police Station Rowshan Kabir said.

If found guilty, legal action will be taken against the street vendor, the OC said.



Shariful Islam at his pigeon farm in Magura Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



Sand extraction from rivers to fill up low-lying land has become a common scene in Pirojpur villages. Sand is being carried through plastic pipe on a busy road, causing immense sufferings to commuters. The photo was taken from busy Charkhali-Tushkhali-Mathbaria road in Mathbaria upazila on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Magura pigeon farmer now idol for unemployed youths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

With almost empty hand, Shariful Islam returned home from Dubai in 2011 and became very upset. At one stage, he tried his luck in pigeon farming following suggestion of a local pigeon lover and since then he did not need to look back.

Many residents of his locality, especially youths, are now following his footsteps.

Son of late Sabdal Mollah, a marginal farmer from Chandpur village in Magura Sadar upazila, Shariful is the second among eight siblings.

After completing BA (Pass) from a college in Dhaka, Shariful went to Kuwait to seek fortune in 2002, where he worked as an electrician for about eight years. In 2011, he returned home after losing his job. The same year, he went to

Dubai but returned home after 36 days.

He could not continue his job there for low wages and returned home with almost empty hand, said Shariful, adding that after some days, he started farming pigeon with an investment of Tk 50,000 on the roof of their house following suggestion of pigeon lover Saiful Islam.

Apart from this, he made pigeons' cages and feed and sold them to traders of different areas in the country.

At present, he earned a profit of Tk 80,000 from the farming every month, said Shariful, now father of two children.

Shariful further said he has 35 local and international verities of pigeons. Of them, each pair of Bold Head is sold at Tk 1.80 lakh and Gerafer at Tk 1 lakh while Feel Back, English

Trumpeter and Black Laurie are sold at Tk 40 to Tk 50 thousand a pair.

He sells the younger ones at Tk 20 to Tk 25 thousand each pair. He gathered primary knowledge about pigeon farming from one of his close friends who works at Acme Veterinary.

He has also set up a sale centre at Binodpur Bazar in the upazila, said Shariful, adding that he opened a Facebook page and sold pigeons through it.

Seeing Shariful's success, around 15 unemployed youths started pigeon farming and they are now earning good profit, said locals.

A local youth, Rakibul Hossain of Dharla village, said he is very happy running the business. He sells pigeons at Tk 30,000 per month.



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

# China cleans, locks away banknotes

AFP, Beijing

China is disinfecting and isolating used banknotes as part of efforts to stop the spread of the new coronavirus that has killed more than 1,500 people, officials said yesterday.

Banks use ultraviolet light or high temperatures to disinfect yuan bills, then seal and store the cash for seven to 14 days -- depending on the severity of the outbreak in a particular region -- before recirculating them, China's central bank said at a press conference.

The virus, which has infected more than 66,000 people in China and spread to more than two dozen other countries, has sparked a rush to disinfect public places and minimise contact between people.

Pharmacies across the country sold out of disinfectants and surgical masks in just days after a lockdown was announced in late January on Wuhan city, where the COVID-19 illness is believed to have emerged.

Fan Yifei, deputy governor of China's central bank, yesterday said that banks have been urged to provide new banknotes to customers whenever possible.

The central bank made an "emergency issuance" of four billion yuan in new notes to Hubei province, the epicentre of the outbreak, prior to the recent Lunar New Year holiday, Fan added.

According to the World Health Organization, COVID-19 can be spread through contaminated objects in addition to droplets and direct contact with infected patients.



A demonstrator hits the door of the National Palace during a protest against gender-based violence in downtown of Mexico City, Mexico, on Friday. Demonstrators daubed the words "femicide state" in blood-red on Mexico's presidential palace on Friday, before marching in heavy rain to the offices of newspaper La Prensa to protest against the recent publication of a gruesome image of a murder victim. The Valentine's Day demonstration, led by women, was sparked by the killing of 25-year-old Ingrid Escamilla in Mexico City and the publication of graphic photos of her mutilated corpse in newspapers.

PHOTO: REUTERS



### Incredible fall from grace

The celebrity lawyer who represented Stormy Daniels, the porn actress who sued US President Donald Trump, was found guilty of extortion Friday in a Manhattan federal court. The conviction marks an incredible fall from grace for California lawyer Michael Avenatti, who at one point presented himself as a major adversary to Trump. Avenatti was found guilty by a jury of charges related to his attempt to extort millions of dollars from the sports apparel giant Nike. He also faces a slew of cases including for embezzlement, tax and banking fraud and identity theft. If found guilty of all the charges, Avenatti could theoretically be sentenced to several hundred years behind bars.

### Stone seeks new trial

Republican political consultant Roger Stone requested a new trial Friday just days after President Donald Trump's criticism of his proposed jail sentence sparked an uproar over political influence in the justice system. The motion was sealed so his arguments for a new trial were not clear. Stone, part of Trump's successful 2016 presidential campaign, was arrested in January 2019 on charges brought by then-special counsel Robert Mueller as part of the Russia investigation. He was accused of lying in testimony to Congress about acting as an intermediary between the Trump campaign and WikiLeaks, which released hacked documents that embarrassed rival Hillary Clinton during the White House race. Stone was convicted on all seven counts in November, and was scheduled to be sentenced on February 20.

### Who is Mexico's president?



He is the president of a top US trading and security partner but two of the Democratic candidates for the White House couldn't name the leader of Mexico. Asked in a Nevada election forum Thursday held by the Telemundo channel and the League of United Latin American Citizens, neither Amy Klobuchar nor Tom Steyer could recall the name of the leader of America's immediate neighbor to the south: Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador. Pete Buttigieg got it right but he didn't seem confident. The event focused on the issues dear to the 32 million Latino voters, many of whom have Mexican roots. Any US president has to spend a significant amount of time with his Mexican counterpart discussing trade, immigration, and drug trafficking issues.

SOURCE: AFP

# Indoor ultra-marathon! Epidemic under control

## Says China State Councillor Wang Yi, admits crisis a 'deep challenge', slams 'overreaction'

AFP, Hong Kong

A fanatical runner jogged the equivalent of an ultra-marathon inside his small apartment as people in virus-hit China desperately try to keep fit while cooped up indoors.

The country is at the centre of an outbreak of a new coronavirus, leaving more than 1,500 dead and sparking global alarm, but it is also in the grip of a health drive because the government is aggressively encouraging people to exercise to fight the disease.

With much of the 1.4 billion population ordered indoors and gyms closed, people are competing to outdo each other in how many bottles of water they can lift, how many push-ups they can do with their children on their backs or how many flights of stairs they can scale in their tower blocks.

But Pan Shancu has easily won the unofficial gold medal, saying he jogged 66 kilometres (41 miles) in a loop at home in six hours, 41 minutes.

He has the data tracker that he says proves it, and the 44-year-old's feat and a video of him repeatedly circling furniture in his apartment went viral in China.

"I felt a little dizzy at first, but you get used to it after you circle many times," Pan told AFP by telephone from Hangzhou, near Shanghai.

"Running is like an addiction. If you don't run for a long time, you get itchy feet."

On another occasion Pan ran 30 kilometres on the spot in his bathroom and live-streamed it to inspire others who have similarly been confined at home for the last two weeks.

China's ruling Communist Party has launched a campaign featuring Olympic athletes to demonstrate how people can stay fit while spending endless days stuck inside.

Bilibili, a popular video-sharing platform, says views of fitness-related content jumped nearly 50 percent in the period January 23 to February 5 compared to the two weeks before.



REUTERS, Berlin

A top Chinese official acknowledged that the new coronavirus is a deep challenge to the country, but defended Beijing's management of the epidemic while lashing out at the "overreaction" of other countries.

In a wide-ranging interview with Reuters in the German capital, State Councillor Wang Yi, who also serves as China's foreign minister, urged the United States not to take unnecessary virus-response measures that could hamper trade, travel and tourism.

"The epidemic overall is under control," he said. "This epidemic is truly sudden. It has brought a challenge to China and the world."

"We've taken such complete prevention and control efforts, efforts that are so comprehensive, that I can't see any other country that can do this," Wang said, adding that any leader in another country would find the challenge very difficult.

"But China has been able to do this."

Beijing has criticised the United States in particular for taking drastic measures on coronavirus, which have included travel curbs on

visitors from China. The United States was the first to announce it was evacuating citizens from Wuhan, the city at the epicentre of the virus outbreak.

"Some countries have stepped up measures, including quarantine measures, which are reasonable and understandable, but for some countries they have overreacted, which has triggered unnecessary panic," he said.

"I'm sure that those countries are reflecting on this as the situation evolves and the epidemic is gradually brought under further control," he said. "They will gradually release such restrictions. Because at the end of the day, these countries need to interact with China."

"We're not just defending the life, safety and health of Chinese citizens, but also making our contribution for global public health, and that should be recognised," he said.

Beijing has urged countries to ease travel restrictions and resume flights after numerous airlines stopped flying to China.

"Only under the leadership of President Xi can we control this sudden epidemic, which has spread so quickly. This is not only to defend the health of the Chinese people, but also will prevent the rapid spread of this epidemic in the world," he said.



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- ✓ In-built dialysis facility in critical care unit and other in-patient area as per patient requirement & convenience
- ✓ Vascular Access Procedure (Fistula or Perm Catheter) facility by in-house skilled physician
- ✓ Own Reverse Osmosis Plant (RO Plant) with backup to supply pure refined water for dialysis patients
- ✓ Uninterrupted power supply through own Captive Power Plant ensuring safe dialysis
- ✓ 24-hour registered blood bank facility to provide emergency blood transfusion and plasmapheresis for Kidney Failure patients



NEWSIN  
brief

15 killed in Haiti orphanage fire

AFP, Kenscoff

Fifteen children were killed when a fire swept through an unlicensed orphanage outside Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince, a judge told AFP on Friday. Two children died in the blaze and 13 others died at a hospital as a result of smoke inhalation. The building housed about 66 children, she said. According to one of the children, the fire was ignited around 9:00pm by candles that the young occupants had lit in their rooms because the electricity was out. An investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the fire and identify the people responsible for the orphanage.

Saudi fighter jet crashes in Yemen

AFP, Riyadh

A Saudi fighter jet crashed in conflict-torn Yemen, the Riyadh-led military coalition said yesterday, as the Huthi rebels said they downed the plane. The Tornado aircraft came down on Friday in northern Al-Jawf province during an operation to support Yemeni government forces, the coalition said in a statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. The coalition did not specify the fate of the crew or the cause of the crash.

Protester shot dead in Iraqi capital

AFP, Baghdad

A demonstrator was shot dead near the Iraqi capital’s main protest camp by unidentified attackers using a gun silencer, medics said yesterday, as police reported a spate of activist abductions. Around 550 people have been killed since the anti-government movement erupted in October and around 30,000 more have been wounded.

‘The West is winning’

Pompeo tells China, Russia as Europe, US spar over direction of Western policy

REUTERS, Munich

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday defended his nation’s global role despite misgivings in Europe, vowing that Western values would prevail over Russian and Chinese desires for “empire”.

Seeking to reassure Europeans troubled by US President Donald Trump’s “America first” rhetoric, his ambivalence over the Nato military alliance and tariffs on European goods, Pompeo said there was no crisis in Western leadership.

“I’m happy to report that the death of the transatlantic alliance is grossly exaggerated. The West is winning, and we’re winning together,” he said in a speech at the Munich Security Conference, listing US steps to protect liberal democracies.

Pompeo was, in part, responding to German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who on Friday accused the United States, Russia and China of making the world more dangerous.

French President Emmanuel Macron told the conference of international leaders, lawmakers and diplomats he was not surprised by Steinmeier’s speech and had liked it.



Pompeo rejects claims that US has quit global role

Macron says Europe can’t be US’s junior partner

China foreign minister says US criticism ‘lies’



“There is a weakening of the West,” the French leader said.

“There’s an American policy that started several years ago and not just under this administration that includes a certain kind of withdrawal, of a rethink of its relationship with Europe.”

“We cannot be the United States’ junior partner,” Macron said, adding that while he supported Nato, Europe needed to be able to tackle threats in its neighbourhood and at times act independently of Washington.

“I’m impatient for European solutions,” Macron said.

Taking the stage later, China’s State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi dismissed US criticism of his country as

“lies”.

“All these accusations against China are lies, not based on facts,” Wang told the Munich Security Conference. “But if we replace the subject of the lie from China to America, maybe those lies become facts.”

Trump’s decision to pull out of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, as well as the Paris climate accord, have undermined European priorities, while moves such as recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital have weakened European diplomacy, envoys say.

Pompeo defended the US strategy, saying Europe, Japan and other American allies were united on China, Iran and Russia, despite “tactical differences.”



A man holds a poster during a protest against a new citizenship law in Mumbai, India. Thousands of people, including a large number of women, yesterday protested against the contentious citizenship law CAA, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR) at Mumbai’s iconic Azad Maidan.

AIR STRIKE IN AFGHANISTAN

8 civilians killed

AFP, Jalalabad

An air strike in Afghanistan has killed at least eight civilians, officials said yesterday, as the war-torn country prepares for a “reduction in violence” under a deal between Taliban militants and the United States.

The incident took place in the eastern province of Nangarhar on Friday when a vehicle carrying civilians was struck, according to Ataulloh Khogyani, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

“The target of the attack was Taliban militants who wanted to establish checkpoints on the road, but unfortunately civilians were hit,” he told AFP, putting the death toll at eight.

Talib Khan, a relative of the dead, told AFP the victims had been driving home from a picnic when their truck was hit, killing everyone inside.

Another relative, Shah Mir, 70, said: “No other breadwinner is left in my house, all my three sons were killed. I have a dozen grandchildren, I don’t know how to bring them up.”

It was not immediately clear who bombed the vehicle, but the US and Afghan militaries are the only forces in Afghanistan conducting air strikes.

A US military spokesman said they were “looking into the incident” and an Afghan defence ministry spokesman said they had launched an investigation.

The strike comes after US Defense Secretary Mark Esper said Thursday an agreement with the Taliban was in place for a “conditions-based” seven-day reduction in violence.

The move is part of a long quest to forge a deal that could eventually lead to a comprehensive ceasefire.

Reversal of nuke breaches possible if Europe acts

Says Iran FM

AFP, Munich

Iran would be willing to move back towards the 2015 nuclear deal if Europe provides “meaningful” economic benefits, the country’s foreign minister said Friday.

The European parties to the Iran nuclear deal -- Britain, France and Germany -- have been battling to save it since US President Donald Trump withdrew from it and reimposed tough sanctions on Tehran.

Iran has responded to the US pullout with a series of steps back from its own commitments under the deal, including by increasing uranium enrichment.

But Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said the Islamic republic could be willing to move back towards compliance -- under certain circumstances. “We have said that we are prepared to slow down



or reverse these measures commensurate with what Europe does,” Zarif told reporters at the Munich Security Conference.

“We will decide whether what Europe does is sufficient to slow down or to reverse some steps -- we have not even ruled out reversing some of the steps that we have taken.”

Europe has set up a special trading mechanism called Instex to try to enable legitimate humanitarian trade with Iran to offset some of the effects of US sanctions.

But it has yet to complete any transactions and the Iranian side does not think it is sufficient.

“We’re not talking about charity. We’re talking about Iranian rights and the rights of the Iranian people to receive the economic benefits,” Zarif said.

‘Dissent is a safety valve of democracy’

Indian judge warns against labelling dissent as anti-national

NDTV ONLINE

Calling dissent the “safety valve” of democracy, Indian Supreme Court judge Justice DY Chandrachud yesterday said “blanket labelling” of defiance as anti-national or anti-democratic strikes at the heart of the country’s commitment to protect constitutional values.

Justice Chandrachud added that use of state machinery to curb dissent instills fear, which violates the rule of law.

“The blanket labelling of dissent as anti-national or anti-democratic strikes at the heart of our commitment to protect constitutional values and the promotion of deliberative democracy,” Justice Chandrachud said during a lecture in Ahmedabad.

“Protecting dissent is but a reminder that while a democratically elected government offers us a legitimate tool for development

and social coordination, they can never claim a monopoly over the values and identities that define our plural society,” Justice Chandrachud added.

Justice Chandrachud’s comments came amid protests across the country over the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the proposed National Register of Citizens (NRC).

“The destruction of spaces for questioning and dissent destroys the basis of all growth--political, economic, cultural and social. In this sense, dissent is a safety valve of democracy,” he said.

Justice Chandrachud said the “true test” of a democracy is its ability to ensure the creation and protection of spaces where every individual can voice their opinion without the fear of retribution.

“Suppression of intellect is the suppression of the conscience or the nation,” he said.



Convict the ‘predator’

Weinstein prosecutors urge jurors as trial nears end

AFP, New York

Harvey Weinstein was a “predator” who used his status as a powerful Hollywood producer to take advantage of the women he attacked, prosecutors said Friday as his sex crimes trial drew to a close.

The disgraced movie mogul, 67, faces life in prison if convicted of predatory sexual assault charges in the high-profile trial that marks a watershed moment in the #MeToo global reckoning against men abusing positions of power.

Weinstein believed he was “the master of his universe, and the witnesses here were really ants who he could step on without consequences,” said assistant district attorney Joan Illuzzi-Orbon in the final day of closing arguments.

“He had a surefire insurance policy: the witnesses were standing in line to get into his universe,” she added.

Weinstein, the first man accused of abuse in the #MeToo movement to

face a criminal trial, has been accused of sexual misconduct by more than 80 women. He denies the allegations against him.

Six women took the stand to say the ex-Miramax Films boss had sexually assaulted them, but the jury is considering charges related to just



two: ex-actress Jessica Mann and former production assistant Mimi Haley.

Mann says Weinstein raped her in March 2013, while Haley alleges he forcibly performed oral sex on her in July 2006.

On Thursday, defense attorney Donna Rotunno argued the women

had used sex with Weinstein to advance their careers, saying they only decided they had been assaulted after Weinstein became a global pariah when allegations against him ignited #MeToo in October 2017.

The trial has raised complicated issues surrounding consent and abuse of power for the jury of seven men and five women.

Under cross-examination, both Mann and Haley acknowledged at least one consensual sexual encounter with Weinstein after the alleged assaults.

The defense has also presented emails that appear to show Mann on friendly terms with Weinstein.

Jurors will begin deliberating Weinstein’s fate on Tuesday and must reach unanimous verdicts on each count. If they are unable, the judge may be forced to declare a mistrial. A split verdict is possible, where Weinstein is convicted of some charges and cleared of others.



I’m number 1 on Facebook, Modi number 2

Says Trump

THE STATESMAN/ANN

US President Donald Trump, ahead of his visit to India, claimed that Facebook has ranked him number one and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi number two, adding that it is a “great honour”.

“Great honor, I think? Mark Zuckerberg recently stated that ‘Donald J Trump is Number 1 on Facebook. Number 2 is Prime Minister Modi of India’. Actually, I am going to India in two weeks. Looking forward to it!” the tweet reads.

President Trump along with his wife Melania Trump will be on a two-day visit in India on February 24 and 25, during which they will visit Ahmedabad and New Delhi.

As per the reports, President Trump along with PM Modi are expected to give speeches at the newly built Motera stadium. Trump would inaugurate the stadium which is billed as the largest cricket stadium in the world.

The event is set to be witnessed by thousands of people in Ahmedabad.

There are multiple agreements and deals set to be tabled during the two days’ meeting between the two world leaders.

One of the notable agreements between the two leaders is of the poultry and dairy markets. As reported by news agency Reuters, India has offered to partially open its poultry and dairy markets in a bid for a limited trade deal during President Trump’s visit.

However, industry analysts are keeping a close watch on whether the trade disputes between the world’s largest democracies would be resolved during Trump’s visit or not.

TOUGH LAW AGAINST MISINFORMATION IN SINGAPORE

Anti-govt website ordered to warn readers of falsehoods

AFP, Singapore

Singapore yesterday ordered the Facebook page of an anti-government website to warn readers it regularly posts falsehoods, the first time authorities have taken such action under a tough law against misinformation.

The law gives ministers in the tightly-regulated city powers to order internet platforms to put warnings next to posts they deem false, but activists and tech giants like Facebook fear it could be used to curb free speech.

Authorities have used it several times to force corrections on individual online posts, but this is the first time since the law came into effect in October that an entity is being directed to warn its readers that it is a regular promoter of falsehoods.

A government statement said the information minister had invoked the law to name the Facebook page of The States Times Review (STR) as a “declared online location” with effect from Sunday.

This means it is required to carry a notice warning readers that it “has a history of communicating falsehoods”, the statement said.

The notice aims to prompt readers to do additional fact-checking when accessing the page.

According to the statement, STR “has repeatedly conveyed numerous falsehoods” since November last year, three of which had been ordered corrected under the law.

And in the past weeks, its Facebook page also spread falsehoods about the coronavirus situation in Singapore, it said.

The website is run by Alex Tan, who says he is an Australian citizen based overseas.

He has defied the correction orders, prompting the Singapore government to ask Facebook to do so. Facebook has complied.

In a statement in November after posting a correction, Facebook said: “As it is early days of the law coming into effect, we hope the Singapore Government’s assurances that it will not impact free expression will lead to a measured and transparent approach to implementation.”

The increased use of the law comes as speculation mounts that elections could be called within months, although a weak opposition is seen as no match for the long-ruling People’s Action Party.



Syrian regime forces remove land mines on the highway connecting the northern city of Aleppo and the capital Damascus in an area formerly held by rebel fighters, at about 20kms from Aleppo, yesterday. Turkey yesterday said it had fulfilled its responsibilities in Syria’s Idlib region in line with de-escalation agreements with Russia and Iran, warning it would take military action in the area if diplomatic efforts with Moscow fail.

PHOTO: AFP







What to WATCH

DAY'S EVENT

SONY SIX

South Africa v England

Third T20

Live from 6:30 pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 1

English Premier League

Arsenal v Newcastle United

Live from 11:30 pm

STAR SPORTS SELECT 2

Bundesliga

Koln v Bayern Munich

Live from 8:30 pm

Mainz v Schalke

Live from 11:00 pm

TEN 1

Serie A

Juventus v Brescia

Live from 8:00 pm

TEN 2

Serie A

Udinese v Verona

Live from 5:30 pm

Sampdoria v Fiorentina

Live from 8:00 pm

Cagliari v Napoli

Live from 11:00 pm

Lazio v Inter

Live from 1:45 pm

Bangladesh Cricket League

Four-day Match, Day 3

Time: 9:30am

Central Zone v South Zone

Venue: Cox's Bazar

East Zone v North Zone

Venue: Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh Premier League

Abahani v Bangladesh Police

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

Time: 6:30pm

# City ban puts Pep’s future in doubt

AFP, London

Pep Guardiola faces a huge test of his loyalty to Manchester City after his club were hit with a stunning two-year suspension from UEFA competitions on Friday.

City have been banned from the Champions League and Europa League for the next two seasons and fined 30 million euros (£24.9 million) after UEFA found them guilty of committing “serious breaches” of financial regulations.

The Premier League champions overstated sponsorship revenue in accounts submitted between 2012 and 2016, according to European football’s governing body.

UEFA also said City failed to cooperate with an investigation into the matter launched by its Club Financial Control Body.

The shock punishment will cost City an estimated £170 million in lost Champions League revenue and the club reacted furiously, immediately vowing to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

“Manchester City is disappointed but not surprised by today’s announcement by the UEFA Adjudicatory Chamber,” a statement read.

“The club has always anticipated the ultimate need to seek out an independent body and process to impartially consider the comprehensive body of irrefutable evidence in support of its position.”

But, while City urgently plan their appeal, the football world waits to see how Guardiola reacts to a punishment that could convince the Spaniard to quit the Etihad Stadium at the end of the season.

Guardiola reportedly has a break clause in his contract which means he can depart at the conclusion of this campaign should certain stipulations be met that satisfy the City hierarchy.

City officials were said to be confident that, despite an underwhelming season which has seen them fall 22 points behind runaway Premier League leaders Liverpool, Guardiola would honour a contract that currently ties him to the club until 2021.



But staying with City now European football could be off limits is likely to be a rather more unappetising prospect for Guardiola.

Whether the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss wants to stick it out at City will show how much he has grown to love the club since arriving in 2016.

Guardiola is close to City directors Txiki Begiristain and Ferran Soriano, who worked with him at Barca, but his ties to City’s Abu Dhabi-based owner Sheikh Mansour might be frayed if there is no escape from the embarrassing ban.

Leading City to a pair of Premier League titles in record-breaking fashion and winning a domestic treble last term underlined Guardiola’s

enduring qualities.

However, he has failed to get past the quarter-finals of the Champions League with City and another daunting test lies in wait in the last 16 when they face Real Madrid later in February.

The most recent of Guardiola’s two Champions League titles as a manager came way back in 2011 with Barca and his failure to add to that tally is the one blemish on his otherwise glittering CV.

The critics who crow that he can only win Europe’s elite club prize with a genius like Barca’s Lionel Messi in his team have nagged at Guardiola for years.

So the prospect of wasting two seasons waiting to return to the pursuit of his holy grail could be too much for Guardiola to bear, especially as rampant Liverpool look capable of keeping the Premier League crown out of City’s grasp for years to come.

Asked about the potential for a European ban in December 2018, Guardiola had been optimistic, but that trust proved misplaced.

“We will not be banned. I trust in them (the owners),” he said at the time. “If it happens, because UEFA decide that, we will accept it and move forward.”

Everything has changed now and reports immediately after news of the ban broke claimed the 49-year-old would consider his future unless City win the appeal.

Guardiola is already 7/4 with bookmakers to not be in charge of City before the start of the next Premier League season.

In a doomsday scenario for City, it might not only be Guardiola who could be weighing up his options if the ban is upheld.

Mansour may feel the damage to his reputation and to City’s status is too much to take and could put the club up for sale.

City stars including Raheem Sterling, Kevin De Bruyne, Sergio Aguero and Aymeric Laporte are unlikely to be impressed at being hauled off the Champions League stage through no fault of their own.

They may consider demanding transfers, adding another factor that could push Guardiola towards the exit door.

# Hacker or whistleblower?

AGENCIES

Football Leaks hacker Rui Pinto -- the man who exposed Manchester City’s breaking of Financial Fair Play rules -- remains in prison awaiting a court case.

Pinto hacked his way into club emails from his Portugal home in 2015 and then passed them on to the media and sparked the investigation into City’s finances.

Despite being widely praised by the football world, Pinto was arrested and sent to prison, and will face a trial for 90 different counts of hacking, sabotage and fraud.

Pinto was denied an appeal on Thursday and has been in jail since last March, while awaiting a verdict by the Lisbon Court of Appeal.

News of UEFA’s decision to ban City from the Champions League for the next two seasons saw Pinto’s name start trending with the hashtag #freePinto on Friday night.

Borussia Dortmund fans even held aloft a banner appealing for authorities to drop the case and allow Pinto to walk free.

Football Leaks was created back in 2015 and has exposed everything from tax fraud to clubs breaching FFP. Pinto reportedly got hold of 70 million documents and 3.4 terabytes of information and told Der Spiegel recently that he was aware of the risks of his work.

“I was aware that anything could happen,” he said to the German newspaper. “I knew that Portuguese authorities prosecute whistleblowers, so I had to be ready for that. The Portuguese authorities are afraid of what I know and that’s why it is important that I not lose my mind.”

“In the beginning, I wrote notes related to the case in my notebook, but then it was taken from me. My lawyer was present when they searched my cell and said it was illegal to take my notes from me. It wasn’t the prison guards who did it, but the Portuguese prosecutors. They do anything they want. It was a month before they returned the notebook to me.”



# Zidane fears Man City motivation

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane on Saturday said that he is expecting Manchester City’s motivation to be “immense” when the two sides meet in the Champions League following the announcement of the English side’s two-season ban from European competitions.

UEFA on Friday said that City would be suspended from the next two editions of the Champions League for “serious” financial fair-play breaches, although the Premier League champions have said they will appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

Real host Pep Guardiola’s City in their last-16 first leg on February 26, with the return game at the Etihad on March 17.

“For what has just happened, their motivation will be immense,” said Zidane ahead of La Liga leaders Real’s match against Celta Vigo on Sunday.

“I’m not going to go into what happened, what is going to happen...”

“It’s a team anyway, who will be a difficult opponent, knowing also how they have been doing in the Premier League. So they will have extra motivation.”

Manchester City

Timeline of events

November 2018: Football Leaks allegations emerge

It has been 15 months since Der Spiegel published a host of articles claiming the defending Premier League champions flagrantly flouted UEFA’s FFP laws. The German publication purportedly gained the information from whistleblowers Football Leaks and claimed Sheikh Mansour’s City regime topped up multi-million-pound sponsorship deals with Abu Dhabi companies, using their owner’s fortune, to meet the financial rules. It was also claimed City were cut a favourable deal by UEFA for overspending in 2014. City said in response: “The attempt to damage the club’s reputation is organised and clear”.

November 2018: UEFA warns City FFP investigation could reopen

UEFA said it would consider reopening a 2014 probe, which saw City fined and have restrictions on the size of Champions League squad imposed, if “new information comes to light”. Early in December, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin said: “We are assessing the situation. We have an independent body working on it. Very soon you will have an answer on what will happen in this concrete case.”

March 2019: UEFA launches formal investigation

It was almost a year ago UEFA formally started an investigation into Der Spiegel’s allegations, with Club Financial Control Board chairman and former Belgium prime minister Yves Leterme warning the “heaviest punishment” City face is “expulsion from UEFA competitions”. City said: “The accusation of financial irregularities are entirely false. The club’s published accounts are full and complete and a matter of legal and regulatory record”.

May 2019: City respond to ban reports

After reports emerged in the New York Times that City were facing the prospect of a one-year UEFA ban, the club released a statement registering concern that their “good faith” in UEFA’s investigation into their financial affairs could be “misplaced”.

May 2019: “Hostile process” slammed by City

Leterme had earlier in the year told Belgian magazine Sport and Strategy that City should face a ban from UEFA competition if the allegations were proven. A strongly worded club statement slammed the CFCB investigation as a “hostile process” after the probe was referred to the body’s adjudicatory chamber for a final decision after the

completion of Leterme’s inquiry. The club said they were “disappointed but regrettably not surprised” by the decision.

November 2019: Reports say City set to avoid ban

Towards the back end of last year, it was reported UEFA were struggling to enforce its FFP regulations and City could avoid a ban and escape only with a fine.

November 2019: CAS deems City appeal ‘inadmissible’

In June last year, City appealed against UEFA’s investigation into alleged breaches of FFP to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). However, five months later CAS ruled City’s appeal as “inadmissible” because UEFA had not reached a final decision on the case.

February 2020: UEFA announces ban

After a lengthy process, UEFA announced City have been hit with a two-year ban from European competition and a hefty €30million fine. The Adjudicatory Chamber of the CFCB found City guilty of “overstating its sponsorship revenue in its accounts and in the break-even information submitted to UEFA between 2012 and 2016”. City again questioned the process of the investigation and announced their intention to launch an appeal with CAS “at the earliest opportunity”.

# VAR denies Wolves as Hamza sees red

REUTERS, Undated

Wolverhampton Wanderers had a goal controversially ruled out by VAR as they were held to a 0-0 draw at home to Leicester City, who finished with 10 men, in the Premier League on Friday.

The result leaves Leicester in third place on 50 points, a point behind Manchester City, while Wolves move up to seventh place on 36, five points off the Champions League places.

Wolves thought they had the lead just before the break when Willy Boly headed home after a short-corner routine but VAR ruled that Pedro Neto was marginally offside when he crossed.

The VAR footage showed Neto’s non-striking foot slightly offside when he received the ball back from Diogo Jota from the short corner.

Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo said the VAR system needed to be re-examined.

“It is reality now but each time it happens it upsets you. When you see the images, there is not a clear advantage but the law is the law,” he said.



Hamza Choudhury was sent off as Leicester City drew goalless against Wolverhampton on Friday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Leicester went down to 10 men when Hamza Choudhury was sent off for tripping Leander Dendoncker as he picked up a second yellow card in the 76th minute.

Wolves went close to a late winner when Raul Jimenez flashed a header from a corner just wide and in stoppage time Adama Traore forced a save out of Leicester keeper Kasper Schmeichel.

# Griezmann shines in Barca win

AFP, Barcelona

A slick Antoine Griezmann strike set Barcelona on their way against Getafe in La Liga on Saturday before they survived a late onslaught from the gritty visitors to win 2-1.

The result leaves Barcelona trailing on goal-difference atop La Liga before leaders Real Madrid’s Sunday home game with Celta Vigo.

In a physically engaging game, Barca star Jordi Alba limped off in the first half.

Alba, the club tweeted after the game, “is suffering from a right adductor muscle injury and will be undergoing further tests.”

The Catalan giants have a Champions League last-16 game away to Napoli on Tuesday.

Barcelona forwards Luis Suarez and Ousmane Dembele are both out with long-term injuries.

Fed by a masterful through ball from Lionel Messi, Griezmann’s finish was perfect as he clipped the ball over onrushing goalkeeper David Soria on 33 minutes.

Sergi Roberto then doubled the scores six minutes later, firing into the bottom corner from a cross by Alba’s replacement Junior Firpo.

But a late rally from Getafe, third in La Liga after four straight wins without conceding a goal, gave Barca a scare.

Getafe, playing in their dayglo yellow away strip, often silenced the 80,409 fans at the Camp Nou.

Their direct approach yielded a



Barcelona forward Antoine Griezmann celebrates after scoring the opener in their 2-1 win over Getafe in a La Liga encounter yesterday. PHOTO: TWITTER

goal when Angel Rodriguez scored with a powerful volley on 66 minutes.

Rodriguez came within an inch of pulling Getafe level on 73 minutes sparking a goalmouth scramble.

Goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen scooped the ball off the line.

Barcelona clung on before Griezmann and Messi both went close with late efforts.

Allan Nyom thought he had put Getafe ahead on 25 minutes when he banged home a rebound. A VAR review, however, judged he had fouled Samuel Umtiti.

Mallorca climbed out of the relegations places as Cucho Hernandez scored the goal in a 1-0 home victory over Alaves.

Real Sociedad’s visit to Eibar on Sunday has been called off because of poor air quality following a landslide into a nearby rubbish dump, the clubs announced on Saturday.

The Basque regional health department had recommended that sports be avoided in the area after the rockslide on February 6 into the Zaldibar rubbish dump, about eight kilometres from Eibar’s Ipurua stadium.

# Nine in six for Haaland

AFP, Berlin

Norwegian teen Erling Braut Haaland took his tally to nine goals in six games for Borussia Dortmund after netting in Friday’s 4-0 win over Eintracht Frankfurt.

Dortmund sit a point behind leaders Bayern Munich, who play Cologne away on Sunday.

Dortmund dominated Frankfurt, who looked a shadow of the side which hammered Bayern 5-1 last November and beat Leipzig 2-0 last month.

Frankfurt could only get one shot on goal, compared to Dortmund’s 17 at Signal Iduna Park.

After goals by Lukasz Piszczek and Jadon Sancho, Haaland again showed some clinical finishing to smash home a second-half pass and continue his phenomenal tally before Raphael Guerreiro added a late fourth.

The 19-year-old, who scored 28 goals in 22 games this season for Salzburg before Dortmund paid 20 million euros for him, now has eight goals in five league games, plus one in the 3-2 German Cup defeat to Werder Bremen.

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# Polls system coming apart

Experts warn at a discussion, urge campaign for fair polls, electoral reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's democratic system will collapse and there is a need to wage a movement with fresh demands for fair polls, good governance campaigners, politicians and former bureaucrats said yesterday.

Fair polls are the outcome of a well-managed electoral system and also the steppingstone of a country's democratic system, they said at a discussion marking the "Seventh National Council-2020" of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan).

There is no alternative to fair polls when it comes to ensuring good governance, they added.

Shujan, which campaigns for good governance, arranged the daylong programme at the auditorium of Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh in the city.

Addressing the discussion as chief guest, former chief election commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena said reforms have been made over the years to improve the country's electoral system and better functioning of the Election Commission to strengthen the democratic system.

He said one major reform in the system was to make public affidavits of polls candidates while another was the registration of political parties.

However, despite these initiatives, the results or achievement were not as expected, he added.

Abu Hena said such reforms will not bear fruit if their implementation is not effective, adding that any institution becomes effective if competent people work for it.

The official voter turnout in the 11th parliamentary polls was more than 80 percent but it might have been 30 percent in reality, said noted economist and former caretaker government adviser Akbar Ali Khan.

An additional 50 percent voter turnout was shown "farcically", he said.

Akbar said voter turnout remained below 30 percent in the municipality polls.

Usually, the average voter turnout in national polls remain lower because political party candidates are not as organised at the grassroots as the local candidates of union parishad or municipality polls are, he said.

During the union parishad or municipality polls, local

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A policeman in an armoured vehicle at yesterday's BNP rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan office in the capital. Another policeman, inset, asks a woman to steer clear of the office. The BNP held the rally to demand that its Chairperson Khaleda Zia be released.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



## KHALEDA'S RELEASE Repression can't stop movement

Says Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

Claiming that police obstructed BNP's procession and arrested its men, party Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said the government won't be able to stop people from demanding release of Khaleda Zia by carrying out repressive activities.

He was addressing a rally in front of BNP's Nayapaltan central office in the capital, demanding release of the party chairperson from jail.

"The government thinks it can obstruct the movement seeking Khaleda Zia's release by oppression. But they have forgotten that one cannot linger on in power through such oppression. The people's just demand can never be suppressed by oppression," he said.

Terming the current government illegal, Fakhru said it captured power forcefully and was ruling the country without people's mandate. "The government resorted to repression and torture to establish a one-party rule. Today, people have no confidence in this government."

He also alleged that 25 lakh BNP leaders and activists were put behind bars.

The BNP leader said they

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## TRIPLE MURDER IN CITY Police think missing husband had big loans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered a note which they suspect was written by the husband of the woman who was murdered, along with her two children, in the capital's Dakshinkhan area.

The woman's husband -- Raquib Uddin Bhuiyan -- had not been seen in the locality since Tuesday, locals and law enforcers said.

Police on Friday evening recovered the bodies of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 16

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 'FREE' COPYRIGHTED CONTENT Google mulls deals to pay news outlets

AFP, San Francisco

Google is in discussions on deals to pay media organizations for content, a move aimed at blunting criticism that it unfairly profits from copyrighted news, according to people familiar with the talks.

Negotiations between the internet giant and news outlets were said to be in the early stages, with most of the publishers located in France and other parts of Europe.

Paying for news would diverge from the Alphabet-owned internet titan's practice of freely mining the internet for material it displays in search results.

A licensing deal would likely be welcomed by news organizations that contend Google derives profits from

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Drop charges against Nur, Shariat

HRW urges govt

STAR REPORT

The Human Rights Watch yesterday called upon the government to drop charges against prominent Bangladeshi publisher Nur Mohammad and baul singer Shariat Sarker and release them from custody.

"Both appear to have been detained for having criticised the ruling party, and religious leaders, respectively," the HRW statement read, adding "The authorities should end all arbitrary arrests and a crackdown on freedom

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## 'No complacency'



A four-member Soviet youth delegation calls on Bangabandhu, who wears Uzbek attire, at his official residence on February 16, 1972.

FEBRUARY 16, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MISCREANTS WILL BE DEALT WITH SEVERELY

Bangabandhu issues a strong warning to miscreants and hooligans who are harassing innocent people and looting their properties. The prime minister says that these elements will be dealt "with a heavy hand by the government".

"You must be on guard against such bad characters," he urges freedom fighters. He also asks



মুজিব শতবর্ষ

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

১০০, ৫০০ ও ১০০০ টাকা মূল্যমান নোটের প্রধান ৪টি নিরাপত্তা বৈশিষ্ট্য

জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান এর প্রতিচ্ছবি সঞ্চলিত ১০০, ৫০০ ও ১০০০ টাকা মূল্যমানের নোট লেনদেনের সময় নিম্নবর্ণিত ৪টি নিরাপত্তা বৈশিষ্ট্য খেয়াল করলে আমরা সহজেই আসল নোট চিনতে পারব :

- ০১। নিরাপত্তা সূত্র: ১০০, ৫০০ ও ১০০০ টাকা মূল্যমান নোটের নিরাপত্তা সূত্রায় বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের লোগো এবং নোটের মূল্যমান মুদ্রিত আছে যা নোট এদিক-ওদিক (Tilt) করলে দেখা যাবে। জুন, ২০১৭ হতে প্রচলিত ১০০ ও ৫০০ টাকা মূল্যমান নোটও এদিক-ওদিক করলে চুলের বেনী সদৃশ নিরাপত্তা সূত্রার একটি অংশ (Band) সাল হতে সবুজ রঙের পরিবর্তন হবে এবং অপরটির সম্পূর্ণ অংশে বাংলায় লেখা নোটের মূল্যমান দেখা যাবে। সাধারণ আলোয় নোটের মূল্যমান আর্থিক দেখা গেলেও টেলি ল্যাম্প কিংবা টর্চ লাইটের নীচে নোট ধরলে পুরো Band জুড়ে মূল্যমান দেখা যাবে।
- ০২। রং পরিবর্তনশীল কালি: ১০০ ও ১০০০ টাকা মূল্যমান নোট এদিক-ওদিক করলে রং পরিবর্তনশীল কালিতে মুদ্রিত অংশ সোনালী হতে সবুজ এবং ৫০০ টাকা মূল্যমান নোট এটি লালচে হতে সবুজ হবে। তাছাড়া, ১০০০ টাকা মূল্যমান নোটের পেছনে বামদিকে থাকা হালকা নীল রঙের BANGLADESH BANK লেখাটিও নোট এদিক-ওদিক করে দেখা যাবে।
- ০৩। অসমতল ছাপ: ১০০, ৫০০ ও ১০০০ টাকা মূল্যমানের প্রত্যেক প্রকার নোটের সামনের ও পেছনের পিঠের ডিজাইন, মাঝবানের লেখা, ইংরেজী ও বাংলা সংখ্যায় লেখা নোটের মূল্যমান, ৭টি সমান্তরাল হেলানো সরলরেখা এবং এর ঠিক নীচে অবস্থিত ছোট ছোট বৃত্তাকার ছাপ খসখসে অনুভূত হবে।
- ০৪। অতি সূক্ষ্ম আকারের লেখা: ১০০, ৫০০ ও ১০০০ টাকা মূল্যমান নোটের পেছনের পিঠের ডিজাইন অংশে অতি সূক্ষ্ম আকারে BANGLADESH BANK লেখাগুলো আতশী-কঁচ ছাড়াও উল্লম্বভাবে 'অতি ম্যাগনিফাইং গ্লাস' দিয়ে পরীক্ষা করলে মত ছুঁ করে কিংবা 'Flashlight & magnifying glass' App এর সাহায্যে নীচে প্রদর্শিত অংশগুলোর উপর মোবাইল ফোন করে দেখা যাবে।



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