

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older has increased by 50% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to increase to 20% of the total population by the year 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to increase to 20% of the total population by the year 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). The number of people aged 65 and older is projected to increase to 20% of the total population by the year 2020 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

FALGUN 5, 1426 BS

PLUS 40 PAGES 29TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT SEGMENT 4

JAMADIUS SANI 23, 1441 HIJRI

20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 12.00

The Daily Star

কে বলে
দুধ বোরিং?
আমি তো নিজেই তৈরি করে খাই!

নিউট্রিশনটা নিয়ে যখন নো টেনশন, তখন দুখটা
ওদেরকে ওদের মতো করেই খেতে দিন। এলা নিউট্রিফাইড মিল্ক, রোড কাউ মাস্টার।
এর জিংক, ক্যালসিয়াম, আয়রন, প্রোটিন আর ভিটামিন দেয়
প্রয়োজনীয় নিউট্রিশন প্রতিদিন।



রেড কাউ
মাষ্টার
না খেল চলে?



Excellence in Quality

0505 9055

HC petition says Mahbubey Alam too old to be AG

Hearing on Feb 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday set February 23 to hear on a writ petition that challenged the legality of Advocate Mahbubey Alam holding the Office of the Attorney General.

SC lawyer Eunos Ali Akond filed it last month.

The bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Md Iqbal Kabir set the date after Eunos placed the matter before the bench.

As per the petition, Mahbubey Alam was appointed Attorney General under Article 64 (1) of the Constitution, which says the appointee has to be qualified to be an SC judge. The age limit of an SC judge is 67 years and thus Mahbubey Alam cannot hold the office any more, since he has turned 71 this year, the petition said.



With the metro rail construction taking up around 60 percent of the road, maintenance work of fibre optic cables is eating up precious space on a street in Purana Paltan. Not only this, the work is also being done unsafely, with unprotected cables being piled by the side and no safety signs in sight.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

New agreements to boost bilateral ties with Qatar

Says state minister Shahriar Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Qatar are going to sign four to five agreements soon to further boost bilateral relationship between the two countries, State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam said yesterday.

The countries are working on a “cooperation model” under which Qatar can provide its resources and funds while Bangladesh can utilise its workforce, the state minister told reporters after the first Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between the two countries held in Dhaka.

“Qatar has a very small population. They cannot manage or look after everything by themselves regarding overseas business,” he said.

If Bangladesh government or a large business group come up with projects in future, then Qatar can invest, he added.

At the FOC, the countries elaborately discussed establishing of a mechanism on how Qatar’s fund can be invested in profitable trades in Bangladesh, said Shahriar, who led the Bangladesh delegation.

“The main issue is to increase trade cooperation,” he added.

Qatar’s per capita income is among the world’s highest while the present Bangladesh government has created an investment-friendly environment in the country, he said.

Qatar Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi headed his country’s delegation at the meeting, which took place for more than two hours at the state guest house Meghna.

Bangladesh arranged a successful trade fair “Made in Bangladesh” in Doha at the beginning of January. Beside Bangladeshi traders, many Qatari entrepreneurs attended the fair, said Shahriar.

He said they are expecting to sign the new agreements in the next three to four months.

One of the agreements will be for “repatriation of sentenced persons”, he said.

If any expatriate Bangladeshi commits crime and subsequently gets sentenced in Qatar, then the agreement will help bringing the convict back to Bangladesh to serve jail sentence here, he said.

Bangladesh has such agreement with other countries, he added.

Qatar is home to some 3.5 lakh Bangladeshis who are involved in various occupations, Shahriar said.

The two countries have “almost finalised” an agreement for visa-free entry of diplomats and other officials. There will be an agreement on “avoidance of double taxation”, he also said.

The delegates further discussed about cooperation over elections of different international bodies, including that of the United Nations.

How the two countries can enhance high-level visits was also discussed, Shahriar said.

The state minister said the expatriates’ welfare ministry will strongly work with its Qatar counterparts to widen job opportunities for Bangladeshi workers in the Gulf country.

CHILD HEALTHCARE

Cabinet okays draft law to improve service

BSS, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle, the draft of a law keeping a provision of merging Dhaka Children Hospital and Bangladesh Institute of Child Health, with the aim to provide better treatment facilities to children.

The approval came from a regular weekly meeting of the cabinet with Prime Minister Sheikh in the chair at the Prime Minister’s Office.

Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam made the disclosure at a news briefing at following the meeting.

“Dhaka Children Hospital was established as an autonomous body in 1977. It has no basis in law as it was formed under ‘Dhaka Children Hospital Ordinance, 2008’ by the then caretaker government,” he said.

The draft law has recommended to form a 12-member board of directors to run the hospital as an autonomous body in a proper manner, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

METRO RAIL

Mock-up on public display soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In order to inform people about the metro rail -- a new mode of public transport in Bangladesh, a mock-up of the coach will be displayed soon.

The display will start at the Metro Rail Exhibition & Information Center in the capital’s Uttara next month.

There, people will be able to learn about the looks of the inside of the train and the ticket-buying process, MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), told The Daily Star yesterday.

DMTCL, a government-owned company, is implementing the metro rail projects. Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)-6, which is first among six such projects, is the route between Uttara Third Phase and Motijheel.

Siddique said they brought the mock-up coach from Japan on December 26 last year and kept it inside the under-construction exhibition and information center at Uttara’s Diabari.

“Today [Monday], we have unpacked the [mock-up] coach and installed it at the base of the exhibition centre, so that other incomplete work can be done smoothly,” he said.

All work will be completed soon and the mock-up coach will be opened for public late next month, he said.

Besides, they will set up a mechanism there so that people can have first-hand experiences like how to buy tickets at a station, he added.

Construction work of the Tk



A mock-up coach of the metro rail was installed at the Metro Rail Exhibition & Information Center in Uttara yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

22,000-crore MRT Line-6, which began in 2016, has made 40.36 per cent progress as of January, and is expected to be opened to the public on December 16, 2021, coinciding with the golden jubilee of the country’s independence.

Once completed, the rail service, which has 16 stations, will be able to carry 60,000 passengers per hour, reducing travel time from Uttara to Motijheel to at least less than an hour from the current two hours.

More than nine kilometres of the 20.1km long viaduct is now visible

and work is continuing on the remaining ones.

Meanwhile, the government has decided to extend the line -- now under construction from Uttara to Motijheel -- up to Kamalapur Railway Station so that people can avail the rail service directly from the country’s largest railway station.

The topographical survey for it has already been done and now a “social survey” is being conducted. After completing the extension work, the total length of the rail route would be 21.26km with 17 stations.

Adding a touch of history

SAYED MOHMUD ULLAH



Thousands of book lovers’ footsteps graced Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday, a venue for Amar Ekushey book fair. But this site has witnessed significant historic events, most importantly, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s speech on March 7, 1971.

Aspecialcornerofthefairhighlights the words of Bangabandhu’s speech. Titled “Shangram” corner, this area celebrates the Father of the Nation’s illustrious life and work.

Visitors are learning more about the country’s history and achievements through these exhibits

set up near Mukto Moncho at the Udyan. There is another corner titled “Arjan Chattar,” which lists the achievements of the country starting from 1997.

“Ekushey book fair is generally revered as the biggest festival for books, but these new corners and exhibits really added more value to the fair,” said Tanbir Hasan Shaikat, a member of Dhaka University Central Students’ Union (Ducs).

The festoons at Shangram corner include Bangabandhu’s statement against Ayub Khan’s “basic democracies” on June 25, 1962; formation of Sorbodolijo Chatra Sangram Parishad O Danga Committee on March 11, 1964;

presentation of six-point demand on February 5, 1966; Agartala Conspiracy case of 1968 and so on.

“These initiatives will help the public learn more about the history of our country,” said Shaikat.

Visitors were keenly observing these special corners, while many took photos and selfies as well.

At Arjan Chattar, fair authorities set up a total of 13 festoons including establishment of Payra port at Patuakhali on November 19, 2013; inauguration of Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover on October 11, 2013; establishment of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant at Ishwardi on October 2, 2013; verdict of Bangabandhu murder on January 28, 2010 and so on.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS, RASHED SHUMON

Large, bright posters at Sangram and Arjan corners of the book fair have proven to be a great way to learn about the country’s history and achievements, alongside taking a few photos.

OVERVALUING SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Former civil surgeon embezzled Tk 41 lakh: ACC inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Exaggerating prices of sports equipment several times higher, former Satkhira civil surgeon Dr Towhidur Rahman misappropriated about Tk 41 lakh from public fund, found an ACC inquiry.

The price of a Tk 2,200 football was inflated to Tk 5,000. Similarly, a cricket bat’s value was shown at Tk 15,000, at least three times higher than the actual price, said officials of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Already facing cases for procurement anomalies, Towhidur bought 20 footballs and 50 cricket bats for a Medical Assistant Training School (MATS) and Institute of Health Technology (IHT) in 2017-18 fiscal.

“Towhidur didn’t wait for approval from DGHS [Directorate General of Health Services] to procure these,” said an inquiry official.

Meanwhile, ACC Director Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya said the commission has already approved filing of two cases in this regard.

The anti-graft watchdog will sue Towhidur Rahman and Benevolent Enterprise owner Shahinur Rahman for misappropriation.

ACC sources said Towhidur sought allocation on December 31, 2017 from the director of DGHS for procuring sports and medical equipment and furniture.

Even before getting allocation, the former civil surgeon floated tender for supply of footballs, cricket bats and balls, gloves, stumps, pads, helmets on February 15, 2018.

He gave work order to Benevolent Enterprise on May 15, 2018. Nine days later, it supplied all the equipment and submitted two separate bills each worth Tk 50 lakh, document shows.

After deducting VAT and income tax, then civil surgeon approved his bills and paid him about Tk 89 lakh.

An expert team comprising Directorate of Sports members visited both MATS and IHT and inspected quality of those items on September 26, 2019.

An ACC official said, “They found that the actual price of the sports equipment supplied to MATS is Tk 23.69 lakh and IHT is Tk 23.88 lakh.” “Both contractor and civil surgeon misappropriated Tk 41.42 lakh,” he added.

ACC deputy assistant directors Ferdous Rahman and Shahidur Rahman investigated the incident, which was supervised by Deputy Director Shamsul Alam.

On September 9 last year, a Satkhira court sent Towhidur to jail in another graft case filed over misappropriating Tk 16.61 crore.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare allocated the money in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 fiscal years for procuring various medical equipment for hospitals and health complexes.

But, the then civil surgeon Towhidur, who retired in February 2019, allegedly embezzled the money by issuing fake documents of procurement. ACC sources said Towhidur is now on bail. The Daily Star could not reach Towhidur and Shahinur for comments.

GENDER-DIVERSE POPULATION

98pc face stigma, harassment: report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The gender-diverse population of Bangladesh have been facing a wide range of violence, including sexual assault and rape by members of the mainstream community, forced marriages, abuse from family, denial of inheritance and much more, a study has revealed.

Some 98 percent of the population faces harassment, stigma, and discrimination, while 97 percent of them face police entrapment and harassment in public places, said the study, titled “Political Economy Analysis for Gender Diverse Communities in Bangladesh”.

Bandhu Social Welfare Society, a non-government organisation working for the rights of the sexual minority, organised a programme to disseminate findings of the report at The Daily Star Centre.

The study was conducted among 346 respondents in five districts -- Chattogram, Dhaka/Gazipur, Mymensingh, Narayananj and Rajshahi between January and April last year. Aged between 15-65, they included sex workers, dancers, activists, students, service holders, entrepreneurs and others.

Prof ASM Amanullah from Dhaka University presented the paper, moderated by Md Moshir Rahman, deputy manager of Bandhu.

According to 98 percent of respondents, policymakers and stakeholders are not sensitised about them, their culture and behaviour, the study showed.

Although the third gender was recognised by the government in 2013, they have continued to face extreme discrimination in every aspect of their lives -- from accessing healthcare services, education, safe living spaces, public transports to constitutional rights.

The study also revealed that 82 percent of respondents have no permanent income. A vast majority of them have no permanent jobs or do not get any formal job due to their behaviour, lack of education, and adverse attitude of the society.

Although the third gender has been

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Girl arrested over stepmother’s murder in Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Sheli Begum (40), lived with her husband and two children at their home in Charalpara area of Ashulia of Savar. On Friday night, she was alone at home while the rest of the family went out, and she was found murdered later in the night.

According to the case statement, the victim’s son Shobuj, a university student, found the lights switched off at the house when he returned around 9:30pm. After entering, he found his step-sister Sanjida Akter with an unknown person at the house.

Upon seeing Shobuj, the two tried to flee. Locals caught Sanjida but the other person managed to escape.

Meanwhile, Shobuj discovered his mother’s dead body at home.

Sanjida lived in a separate house in Ashulia. Police detained her on Friday and yesterday she was shown arrested after the victim’s husband filed a murder case accusing Sanjida and an unknown person.

Nurul Huda, sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station said the dead body was sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Javed Masud, inspector (investigation) of Ashulia Police Station said they were investigating the incident. Motive behind the murder is yet to be known.



A family of four rides a motorcycle clearly cramped for space. As one child sits on the tank, another is sandwiched between his parents. This puts not only the family but vehicles around them in great risk of accidents. The photo was taken from Shanir Akhra on the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Road accidents kill four, injure six

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and six injured in road accidents across the country yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Faridpur, college student Md Tarek Bapari (16) was killed and five were injured after a battery-run auto-rickshaw collided with Tarek’s bike at Nayrashi Jorinar Kupparia Bridge area of Sadarpur upazila around 8:45am.

Tarek was a 12th-grader at Sadarpur Govt College and son of Siraj Bapari of the upazila.

Quoting locals, Md Sohidul Islam, chairperson of Sadarpur union parishad, said after the accident, Tarek died on the spot and the auto-rickshaw fell into a roadside ditch, injuring five of its passengers.

The injured were rushed to the upazila health complex, and later, three of them were shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated, he said.

In Savar, Rashid Khan (35) was killed on the spot after a speeding truck hit him while he was crossing the road at Fulbaria area around 8am, said police.

Police were trying to trace the truck and its driver.

In Rajbari, Md Hanif Biswas (37) died and one was injured after their motorbike collided with a roadside tree at Majbari area of Kalukhali upazila around 10:30am, said police, quoting locals.

The accident occurred after Hanif lost control over the vehicle. The injured pillion passenger was taken to the upazila health complex.

In Mymensingh, Mozammel Haque (50) was killed after a truck hit his motorbike at Ramgopalpur Baluakandi area of Gouripur upazila around 7am, said police, quoting locals. He was taken to the upazila health complex and was then referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) as his condition deteriorated, they added.

Mozammel died at MMCH around 1pm. Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital’s morgue for autopsy. They also seized the truck but its driver managed to flee. A case was lodged.

2 jailed for running coaching centre

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mobile court convicted two people for running a coaching centre during SSC examinations in Mymensingh yesterday.

The court led by Executive Magistrate Md Saiful Islam jailed Ariful Islam (35) and Touhidul Islam (25) for one month each.

They were running a coaching centre “Arif Private Coaching Centre” at Bhaitkandi in Phulpur upazila defying a government ban that all coaching centres have to be kept shut during public exams, said Saiful Islam, also Phulpur upazila nirbahi officer.

The coaching centre is close to a centre of ongoing SSC exams, he said.

Cabinet okays draft law

FROM PAGE 3

A director of the hospital will be the executive officer of the hospital while each of the directors will be appointed for three years, he said.

Anwarul also said that the government will formulate necessary rules through gazette as part of the move to implement the law accordingly.

The cabinet also approved the draft of the agreement to be signed between Bangladesh and Greece regarding assistance on education and culture, he said, adding, “Bangladesh has already signed agreements with 44 countries on cultural assistance aimed at enhancing cultural ties with those countries.”

The meeting was apprised of the premier’s participation in “Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2020” and “Zayed Sustainability Award 2020” in the United Arab Emirates from January 12-14.

Police rescue infant from Ctg graveyard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police on patrol duty rescued a seven-month-old baby who was abandoned at a graveyard in Chattogram Polytechnic Institute area yesterday afternoon.

“We saw a man getting down from a CNG-run auto-rickshaw with something wrapped in a cloth around 1:30pm,” Assistant Sub-Inspector Hiron Miah of Khulshi Police Station said. “The man threw it to the graveyard and quickly got back on the auto-rickshaw,” he added.

Intrigued, the police team approached the spot and found out it was a baby girl.

“We rushed the rescued baby to Chattogram Medical College Hospital,” Hiron Miah said. “The baby is undergoing treatment at the ICU. We don’t understand why the man threw a baby into a graveyard.”

Pranab Chowdhury, OC of Khulshi Police Station, said police were investigating the matter.

Furniture trader murdered in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A furniture trader was found murdered near his shop at a fair in Chattogram early yesterday.

The body of Md Jamal (50) bore injury marks on the head and right eye, said police.

His head might have been thrashed with any heavy object, said Patiya Police Station Officer-in-Charge Borhan Uddin.

Jamal from Narsingdi set up his makeshift shop at Nalanda in Patiya upazila for the fair that is traditionally held during an urs (a religious programme) at nearby Garibullah Shah Shrine, said the OC.

Yesterday was the urs’ last day, which began on February 10. The police officer could not confirm the exact reason behind the murder. “A gang of robbers might have attacked him,” said OC Borhan.

There was no sign of ransacking inside the stall. After investigation, it will be cleared whether any valuable or money has been taken away, he said.

The OC said they did not find any who could assist Jamal run the shop.

Police filed a murder case over the incident and sent the body to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy.

98pc face

FROM PAGE 3

included in voter registration, 86 percent of respondents said they have no separate voter list, 83 percent think political parties are not thinking about them and 77 percent believe political parties do not have any specific agenda for them.

Focus group discussions findings also point out that although sometimes they have been used to entertain political campaigns, they are victims of sexual harassment by political leaders and are often tortured by the police over false accusations.

90 percent respondents also said they face mental and sexual harassment while receiving health services, while 88 percent said their sexual and reproductive health needs are not adequately addressed.

“If we really want inclusive as well as sustainable development, we must include our sexual and gender diverse population, because the key agenda of SDG is leaving no one behind,” said Saleh Ahmed, executive director of Bandhu while speaking at the event.

Prof Md Farhadul Islam, member of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) assured that from this year, they are going to revise the curriculum, including the issue of the third gender and gender-diverse population in it.

M Rabiul Islam, deputy director, member secretary of Transgender, Dalit, and other excluded minority committee of National Human Rights Commission; and Slavica Radosevic, political processes team lead of USAID Bangladesh spoke at the event, among others.

Prof Akhtar Jahan no more

CITY DESK

Prof Akhtar Jahan Farida Banu passed away yesterday at United Hospital in the capital at the age of 82, said a press release.

Prof Akhtar served as a head of the Bangla department at Eden College, and professor of Bangla at Dhaka College. She was also a Rabindra Sangeet singer of BTV and Bangladesh Radio. She was the wife of Late Dr Ashequr Rahman Khan, former director of Holy Family Hospital.

She left behind her son Advocate Adilur Rahman Khan, daughters Dr Tashmim Farhana Dipta, Taskin Fahmina Prita, their spouses and five grandchildren and a host of well-wishers to mourn her.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held after Esha prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque. She will be laid to rest today at their family home in Munshiganj’s Srinagar.



150 rape

FROM PAGE 3

Among the eight crime divisions of DMP, Lalbagh and Tejgaon divisions jointly achieved first rank in combating crime. Among four divisions of its Detective Branch, the south division achieved the first rank in combating crime and investigating cases.

DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam awarded best police officials at conference, for their duty in ensuring public security and maintaining law and order.

Seminar, campaign on coronavirus held

Speakers stress precautionary measures to prevent outbreak

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M’singh

A scientific seminar and mass awareness programme on “Recent Outbreaks of Novel Coronavirus” was held at Mymensingh Medical College’s (MMC) auditorium yesterday.

The event was a joint effort of MMC’s Department of Medicine and Bangladesh Society of Medicine (BSM), Mymensingh branch.

Speakers said the global situation regarding coronavirus is worsening every day, as the mortality rate is increasing. World Health Organization (WHO) has recently declared an emergency health situation throughout the world as the virus has created a serious panic.

Although cases of coronavirus are yet to be reported in Bangladesh -- doctors, nurses and common people must take precautionary measures, they said.

“...[We] urge doctors, nurses and citizens to know about the dangers coronavirus poses,” said Dr Md Khurshed Alam, an associate professor of Medicine at MMC.

People involved in coronavirus treatment must ensure hand-washing and sanitising facilities, Dr Khurshed added.

Prof Chandanendu Bhushan Sarker -- president of BSM, Mymensingh branch -- was in the chair, and top health officials in Mymensingh were present at the programme.

Flat for Sale at Uttara, Sector-7
3 bed, 4 bath, spacious living and dining rooms, study, family lounge, kitchen pantry store, maid's room and bath, 2500sqft. Driver's room and 2 car park at the ground floor.
Contact-01792579242, 01817024701

INDUSTRIAL PLOT SALE
Fifty bigha land in Khulna, bank of Bhairab river with boundary wall with Verities size Building. Total area 1,68,754 SFT.
Contact : 01852-110111

NOTICE FOR CLOSING DOWN PULS TRADING FAR EAST LIMITED, CHITTAGONG LIAISON OFFICE

This is for information of all stakeholders of the **Puls Trading Far East Limited, Chittagong Liaison Office** that the Board of Directors of Puls Trading Far East Limited, the parent company of the above Liaison Office, have taken a decision for closing down Puls Trading Far East Limited, Chittagong Liaison Office, Bangladesh in a Board meeting held on 4th February, 2020 at 10.00 A.M. at 22 Floor, Tower 6, China Hong Kong City, 33 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong.


According to the board decision, the effective closing date of the Liaison Office will be 14th of May 2020.

After publication of this notice, if any person has any objection or any claim with Puls Trading Far East Limited, Chittagong Liaison Office, he/she is requested to contact **Mr. Ziaur Rahman** of Puls Trading Far East Limited (authorized through the above mentioned Board meeting dated 4th February, 2020) in writing by **30th April 2020 latest.**

To-Let
Independent 3 Storied building at Nikunja-1, adjacent Army Golf Club. Duplex, Central gas, Basement, 3 parking House-2A, Road-2.
Ph: 01715 034984

Full furnished Flat TO-LET
A full furnished 1700 sqft. flat in **Dhanmondi**, Road 9/A. Foreigners preferred.
Contact : 01931222888, 01711840084

Death Anniversary



Today is the 9th Death Anniversary of Ali Ul Islam, Former Chief Selector and Manager of Bangladesh Cricket Board, foremost Captain of Abahoni Cricket Team and the owner of Alees Marketing.

To mark the day, a Milad and Duamahfil will be held at his work place today.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control & Research (IEDCR), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
Telephone: 9842270, 9898796, 9898691 Fax: 9880440
e-mail: info@iedcr.gov.bd Website: www.iedcr.gov.bd
Memo No. IEDCR/STI Surveillance/Re-E-Tender/2019-20/ Date: 16.02.2020

Re-Tender Notice: 02/2019-20

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

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of the items	Tender ID No.
1.	IEDCR/STI/Re-Tender P-1	Desktop, Printer, UPS, Modem	427785
2.	IEDCR/STI/Re-Tender P-2	Laptop	427833
3.	IEDCR/STI/Re-Tender P-3	Real Time PCR Machine	427847
4.	IEDCR/STI/Re-Tender P-4	Automated Microbial Identification & Susceptibility System with MIC	427856
5.	IEDCR/STI/Re-Tender P-5	Heating Block	427862
6.	IEDCR/STI/Re-Tender/P-6	RT PCR Kit	427868
7.	IEDCR/STI/Re-Tender P-7	Bacterial DNA Extraction Kit	427880
8.	IEDCR/STI/Re-Tender/P-8	NH Test Card, Calibration Kit, others	427883

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

To submit Re-E-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the Re-E-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 2.00pm on 09.03.2020.

The closing & opening time of tenders are shown below:

Sl. No	Description	Date	Time
1.	IEDCR/STI/Re-Tender P-1, P-2, P-3, P-4, P-5, P-6, P-7, P-8	09.03.2020	Closing 3:00pm Opening 3:00pm

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

NB: Funding for this procurement under STI Surveillance (Survey Code-3257104).

GD-302

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Institutional Development and Capacity Building (Phase-2) Project
River Research Institute, 72 Green Road, Dhaka
Phone: +880-2-58155538 Fax: 0631-63065 Web Site: www.rrri.gov.bd


Memo No.-RR1/Pra. Unnoyoni/1359/2018/324 Date: 16/02/2020

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl.No.	Tender ID No.	Last Selling Date	Opening Date
1	425547	08/03/2020	09/03/2020

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


16.02.2020
(Dr. Moniruzzaman Khan Eusufzai)
Senior Scientific Officer & Project Director
mkeusufzai@rrri.gov.bd

GD-305

Kurmitola Golf Club
Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Request for Expression of Interest for Selecting Consultancy Firm

Division/ Office/Entity Name	Kurmitola Golf Club
Expression of Interest for Short listing of consultant for	Selection of Local/ International Consultant Firm
Key Information	
Procurement Method	Kurmitola Golf Club
Budget and Source of Fund	5th March 2020 by 12 00 Hrs
Particular Information	
EOI Closing Date	5th March 2020 by 12 00 Hrs
Name and Address of the Office	
Office of the “Chief Executive Officer, Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka - 1206, Email - kgcdhaka@hotmail.com	
Information for Tenderer	
Brief Description of Assignments	
Kurmitola Golf Club is a veritable heaven for golf enthusiasts in Bangladesh and other golfers around the world. This club is providing state of the art facility for all golfers and reached its summit by hosting International Tournaments. Looking forward, the club decided to make the following renovation to maintain the standard of this renowned club:	
1. The club currently has a residential building, maintenance building, pump house and mosque complex westside of club house Building. The club desires to design and construct new residential building, maintenance building, pump house and mosque complex in a new multi storied building to an international level with all modern facilities and amenities that will add value to this International Standard club including basement car parking, KGC Office, and other all existing facilities. The total area of KGC is covered with an old fashion boundary wall. This needs to be reconstructed with new and modern look boundary wall which will not only enhance the beauty but also ensure adequate protection and security.	
2. The club house currently has one main entrance with parking on both sides of the main approach road. The club desires to redesign / modify the same.	
Referring to the above mentioned plans for renovation, the club authority is inviting interested renowned local/international consultancy firms to provide their Expression of Interest (EOI) for the said work.	
All Studies and Designs for the renovation shall be in accordance with the highest standards of International Engineering Profession.	
Qualification and Experience	
Eligible Consulting firms are to indicate their Interest in providing the said service. The consultant must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services along with supporting documents e.g. brochures, past experience certificate etc. Submitted EOI needs to be supported by the following:	
⇒ Reputable corporate international / national organizations with 10 years of experience in same of the above activities	
⇒ Proven track record with strong engineering (technical) and management team (documentary proof to be provided)	
⇒ Good track record and experience in consultancy management / service.	
⇒ Strong interpersonal and communication skills for reporting and negotiating with relevant authorities	
⇒ The consultant shall have sufficient knowledge of residential and mosque building / multi storied building including car parking at basement and engineering design.	
⇒ Evidence of availability of qualified professional personnel	
⇒ Updated Trade License	
⇒ Certificate of Incorporation, Bank Solvency, VAT and TIN Certificates.	
The above mentioned criteria are an outline of the selection criteria. The KPI of the company should be highlighted.	
The detailed TOR, qualification criteria and resource requirements will be clearly mentioned during the RFP. RFP will be issued to ONLY shortlisted Consultancy firms.	
Special Instruction	
1. To visit the facility, please contact the Kurmitola Golf Club seeking assistance in facilitating the site inspection.	
2. The club authority reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.	
Deliverables	
2 X Colour Hard copy addressing the following: Office of the “Chief Executive Officer, Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka - 1206, Bangladesh” Email - kgcdhaka@hotmail.com	

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2020, FALGUN 5, 1426 BS

Wasting ICU equipment

Why has such gross negligence gone unpunished?

IT is a blatant display of utter neglect. When many hospitals in the country lack rudimentary lifesaving devices, that a hospital in the country would allow costly equipment in its inventory to fall into disrepair and eventually become obsolete before being put to use, is shocking. And even more so if that happens to be a specialised hospital set up for the treatment of cancer. It is outrageous, but true, that the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) has been negligent in the maintenance of very expensive hospital equipment, including ICU ventilators. And in this respect, five senior doctors and officials of NICRH have been found in dereliction of their duty, in a report forwarded to the High Court (HC) following its ruling. It taxes one's credulity to learn that this equipment had been procured 12 years back and none of the several project directors found the time to have them installed.

But there are other even more outrageous aspects of this episode. Were it not for the fact that the matter was exposed in a report in January this year in this newspaper, and the suo moto rule of the High Court on the government that very day, one wonders whether the matter would have come to light at all? One also wonders about the chain of oversight and supervision in the entire system of the health ministry's administration. Are we to believe that nobody from the ministry or the DG Health's office had visited the hospital even once in the last 12 years? The situation exposes a serious systemic void bordering on criminality.

We thank the HC, without whose role some of the issues of public interest, including this one, would have continued to be neglected and public funds would have continued to be frittered away with impunity. We are glad that the HC has sought further information regarding the steps taken against the officials and set February 23 as the date to pass further orders on the issue. Squandering public money deserves the severest of punishments.

17-year-old ban yet to be fully applied

Why are unfit vehicles invisible only to the authorities?

BANNED three-wheelers with two-stroke engines continue to ply the streets of Dhaka, as seen in a photograph published by this newspaper yesterday. In the photo, taken in the city's Lalbagh area, three-wheelers that have no fitness certificates can be seen, with one of them running on the street with passengers in it. The three-wheelers in question have no turn signals and no number plates, with just a few numbers painted on them by their owners. Yet, they continue to operate in broad daylight.

How is this possible? What happened to the much-touted drives to free Dhaka's streets from all unfit vehicles? And how did the owners and drivers of these vehicles become so emboldened as to operate them so openly? The most likely explanation, of course, is that they are plying the streets in exchange for bribes.

The decision to ban three-wheelers with two-stroke engines was taken in 2003—nearly two decades ago now—based mainly on environmental considerations, as exhaust from these vehicles reduces air quality. According to a study published in the *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association*, samples collected from 2000 to 2004 showed how removing these vehicles reduced fine particulate matter and black carbon concentrations from city roads. Now, with so much talk going on about Dhaka's poor air quality, it is shocking to see drivers of three-wheelers with two-stroke engines ignoring the ban without any fear, and without the authorities stepping in and removing them from the streets.

The authorities need to strictly enforce the ban on vehicles with two-stroke engines. And the only way to make that happen is for the authorities to actually launch and continue with drives to remove unfit vehicles from the roads. These drives cannot be sporadic, but must be continuous.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Why should there be rigid timings for Boi Mela?

Yesterday I visited the book fair around noon and all I could see were closed stalls and the security dismissing people, saying that the fair won't start until 3 pm. What is this new rule? People from all over the country spend their valuable time and money to visit the book fair, only to be dismissed in this way.

Why let the fair continue if people for whom it is held are deprived of it? So many people are missing out on the event due to this ridiculous rule. Also, where was it stated in the first place that no one will be allowed entry before 3 pm? People deserve to be reimbursed the commute fare they are spending on their way in, especially when they're being sent back in this manner. It's a matter of concern for the general public and we demand an explanation for this rule!

Nawazeesh M. Ali, Sent via email



PHOTO: STAR



MS SIDDIQUI

NOVEL Corona-virus was first identified in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province, in early December 2019. The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the virus a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on January 30. However, the virus has not yet been declared a "pandemic"—a term used to describe an infectious disease which has spread globally—and the WHO has not recommended any trade or travel restrictions.

However, a number of countries have issued warnings against travelling to Hubei and elsewhere in China, as well as restrictions on entry of travellers from China. Some international commercial airlines have suspended flights to and from China and some vessels are also not calling at Chinese ports.

The Chinese government has imposed restrictions on movement within China in response to the outbreak. Manufacturing industries are on an extended holiday that began during Chinese New Year. The shutdown of Chinese manufacturing is likely to have an impact on the global supply chain, along with a consequential impact on construction projects and other downstream industries.

The final consequence of this is a slowdown of the "global factory" due to the coronavirus outbreak, through both the domestic markets of China and their involvement in the global supply chain. Chinese goods make up more than 26 percent of Bangladesh's total imports, which includes raw materials, finished products, machinery and consumer products worth around USD14 billion per annum. The consumer market in Bangladesh is also dependent on Chinese supply.

Though there have been no coronavirus cases detected in Bangladesh so far, the country's economy is now likely to face an adverse impact because it maintains close trade relations with China. Readymade garments (RMG) is a major sector of manufacturing and export for Bangladesh, and more than 50 percent of the raw materials used for this industry are brought from China. Due to the virus outbreak in China, disruptions in the supply chain could continue for several more months, leading to a financial loss worth BDT 14-15 billion for the garments accessories sector alone. The failure of delivery from Chinese exporters may compel buyers in other countries to claim compensations for a breach of contract with regard to timely delivery, and on the other hand, the overseas buyers of RMG from Bangladesh may also claim compensation from exporters in Bangladesh.

However, the contracting parties may be excused from this breach of contract by using the "force majeure" (FM) clause. Force majeure events are unexpected circumstances outside of a contracting party's reasonable control that, having arisen, prevent it from performing its contractual obligations. Usually, international sales contracts do not explicitly mention this clause. Affected parties should consider whether

their contracts make provisions for force majeure clauses and whether the outbreak falls within the protection offered by the relevant clause.

Force majeure clauses can be relied upon only if all reasonable steps have been taken by a party to mitigate the effect of the event, so it is unclear whether Bangladesh can be excused by invoking this clause. The shortage of component materials may have an impact on pricing now and in future months, the scarcity of such parts may well drive prices upwards if demand remains stable. As a result, contracts should be reviewed to ensure that protection against price rises is also included, or whether they need to agree to new terms or "flex" other parts of their supply chains to ensure adequate provision of stocks at a commercially sensible price.

On the basis of the emergency declared by the WHO, force majeure provisions are likely to be increasingly relied upon and invoked by an affected party. The China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) announced



PHOTO: STAR/FILE

that it would be offering "force majeure certificates" to businesses in China affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus in Wuhan.

Whether a Chinese exporter can successfully invoke FM, and/or rely on the CCPIT certificates to do so, will depend on the governing law of the contract and the terms of the relevant clause. The CCPIT has already issued its first force majeure certificate to a manufacturing company in Zhejiang province to help stem the firm's losses, arising from its inability to meet its contractual obligations with Peugeot's African plant, which potentially exposed it to a damages claim.

Release from performance as a result of force majeure is not recognised as a standalone principle in some countries, such as the UK. It is therefore a matter for parties to deal with expressly in their contracts and the protection afforded by the clause will depend on the precise drafting. In the event of a dispute as to the

scope of the clause, the English courts will apply the usual principles of contractual interpretation.

According to global law firm Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher, "The usual rules of contractual interpretation under English law apply to the interpretation of force majeure clauses. The court must ascertain the objective meaning of the language which the parties have chosen to express their agreement, and consider not only the wording of the particular force majeure clause but must also consider the contract as a whole and, depending on the nature, formality and quality of drafting of the contract, give more or less weight to elements of the wider context in reaching its view as to that objective meaning. Market practice may also be relevant to the exercise of interpretation, provided that it is clearly evidenced. In practice, however, market practice may be difficult to prove and a recent English case has confirmed that evidence of market practice after a contract is concluded will not result in terms being implied into a contract."

The crisis along shipping lines are likely to be more acute, since the business is highly regulated by laws and protocols. The shipping industry is likely to be impacted in a number of ways—they are facing disruptions in voyages to and from China, but also from delays in other countries as a result of quarantine and port checks due to cases, or suspected cases, of the coronavirus amongst crew and passengers on board vessels. Delivery of cargo may be delayed, or cargo may need to be discharged at alternative or interim ports, with expensive consequences and significant logistical and insurance implications.

International law firm Morrison and Foerster LLP recently provided an overview of force majeure clauses under Chinese law and English law, noting that in relation to Chinese law, "Useful guidance in evaluating the applicability of force majeure to the coronavirus outbreak is a notice of the Supreme

People's Court (SPC) issued in 2003 in relation to the SARS epidemic, which confirmed that force majeure would apply where the SARS epidemic or government measures adopted to combat it rendered a contract unable to be performed. It is not unreasonable to expect similar SPC guidance in response to the current outbreak, but even without that formal guidance, force majeure may be a useful doctrine for defaulting parties in appropriate circumstances."

As for the Hong Kong law, the authors examined the importance of the doctrine of frustration in circumstances where a contract does not contain a force majeure clause and, in relation to force majeure itself—"Whether the coronavirus outbreak qualifies as a force majeure event ultimately will depend on the construction of the contractual clause at issue. Some clauses may make it reasonably clear if they specifically identify "disease", "epidemic", or "quarantine" as force majeure events. Other clauses may include more general events such as "acts of God", "acts of

government", "strikes", or "circumstances beyond the parties' control". The current outbreak could be a combination of more than one factor, the disease/epidemic itself and the government/public actions that ensue. Affected parties should carefully review the force majeure clauses in their contracts to determine whether they may apply."

Consequently, Bangladeshi exporters may evaluate their sales contracts and also the possible impacts of failure to export RMG on time, and figure out whether they can claim compensation from Chinese sources of raw materials. The Export Promotion Bureau and BGMEA should study the issue, evaluating the laws and practices related to force majeure of buyers' countries. This will be a new experience for buyers and sellers of Bangladesh and act as a good reference for trade law practitioners.

MS Siddiqui is a legal economist. He can be reached at mssiddiqui2035@gmail.com

Tainted politicians, elections and judiciary



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

THE Indian Supreme Court's order on February 13—making it mandatory for political parties to put on public domains like Facebook and Twitter the criminal cases that have been lodged against their candidates contesting elections, and to justify the giving of nominations to them once again—has moved the spotlight onto a major area of concern in the country's electoral democracy: the growing criminalisation of politics.

In a recent report, rights group Association of Democratic Reforms pointed out how nearly half of the 542 Lok Sabha lawmakers elected last year have declared criminal cases against them, as shown in their mandatory affidavits. It noted a sharp increase—within the decade since 2009—in elected parliamentarians with cases against them for serious criminal acts, including murder and rape. In their latest report on the Delhi assembly polls held on February 8, it found that 37 of the 70 legislators are facing serious criminal cases.

The apex court, in its February 13 order, noted that in 2004, 24 percent of the members of parliament had criminal cases against them, and that figure went up to 30 per cent in 2009, 34 per cent in 2014 and 43 per cent in 2019. What the latest court order has done is to provide a legal compulsion after the Election Commission had earlier proposed that political parties must go public with an explanation for fielding candidates with criminal cases against them. What is significant about the February 13 order is that it also sought to make the

parties accountable for choosing people with criminal antecedents as their candidates, and not untainted people. The significance of the order lies in the fact that parties often resort to citing the "winability" factor of a candidate as its justification for choosing him or her for the poll.

The criminalisation of politics has, for long, remained a matter of worry. The Election Commission and the judiciary have, from time to time, taken steps to deal with this problem. The Supreme Court in 2013 scrapped a loophole in the Representation of People Act (RPA), which gave a convicted lawmaker the power to remain in office on the grounds that appeals have been filed within three months of conviction, and held that the lawmaker shall be disqualified from the date of conviction. Secondly, not too long ago, the Supreme Court ordered the setting up of special courts to speed up the trial of lawmakers and legislators. The total number of lawmakers in the bicameral parliament and the state assemblies is pegged at 4,896.

While the leaders of various parties have, by and large, welcomed the apex court's February 13 order to make public the details of criminal cases against their candidates, they are not happy with the direction to justify the choice of such candidates. CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury was quoted as saying that courts "cannot dictate on the internal affairs of a party." Senior Congress leader and lawyer Ashwani Kumar told The Indian Express that "credentials about leadership are to be established or negated in the people's court and not by judicial diktats" and "whether legislative lassitude and executive lethargy on such issues can justify the court's binding policy prescriptions on matters quintessentially political is highly disputable."

Another difficulty that may be encountered with regard to the court order is that there are times when criminal cases are filed against politicians with a political motive. A solution to this difficulty may be overcome by speedy trial, even though this is often wishful thinking, given the pace of the judicial process.

Will the Supreme Court's February 13 order have a deterrent effect? Former

What is significant about the February 13 order is that it also sought to make the parties accountable for choosing people with criminal antecedents as their candidates, and not untainted people.

Chief Election Commissioner SY Quraishi pointed to the fact that the number of lawmakers with criminal cases went up in last year's Lok Sabha elections. The question that arises is: if the law cannot put a blanket ban on candidates with criminal cases contesting elections, why should political parties refrain from putting them up as their nominees?

There is a view that putting details about criminal cases against candidates on the parties' official websites and social

media platforms only have the effect of "naming and shaming" them and may not be enough to tackle this problem. It is felt that only parliament can enact legislation to ensure that people with criminal antecedents, particularly with cases of heinous crimes against them, are not to be allowed to enter the electoral fray and enter public life. But can this happen if there are already lawmakers with criminal cases against them? There is also the question of whether such a ban is feasible, especially when criminal charges are at times levelled against political rivals with political motives.


In fact, it has already been suggested by some that the judiciary seeking an explanation from parties for its choice of candidates with criminal antecedents, however well-intentioned it is, runs the risk of over-stepping its jurisdiction. It has also been argued that it is the voters who, through their "well-informed" assessment, will decide on whether to elect a person with criminal antecedents. One answer to this line of argument is that, shouldn't the judiciary act when the legislature fails or the Election Commission is not empowered enough to take tough calls? In any case, it is the higher judiciary that is the arbitrator whenever the decisions of the Commission or laws passed by elected legislatures are challenged, even though it is true that the legislature has the power to get around any judicial verdict through suitable legislations.

One may go on endlessly debating the number of ways to curb or stop criminalisation of politics. But the problem will remain intractable as long as the culture of impunity, under which parties field tainted candidates in election after election, continues. That culture must end irreversibly.

Pallab Bhattacharya is a special correspondent for The Daily Star. He writes from New Delhi, India.

BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Our missed opportunities



HASEEB MD
IRFANULLAH

ACCORDING to the Global Risks Report 2020 from the World Economic Forum (WEF), biodiversity loss is now the third most serious risk our world is facing in terms of impact. In its 15-year history, the Global Risks Report has never listed biodiversity loss as one of the top five global crises in terms of impact, although it did make the top five global risks in terms of likelihood in 2011, and is featured in the latter list for 2020 as well. Weapons of mass destruction occupied the top position for global risks in terms of impact for the last three years. It is now number two, losing its position to climate change or more specifically, our failure to take proper action against climate change.

Biodiversity conservation and climate change are topics that often come to the fore in discussions. The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) is an example of this. The BCCSAP talks about adaptations in the fisheries sector, livelihoods in ecologically sensitive areas, and the creation of coastal forests to fight cyclones. “Monitoring of the ecosystem and biodiversity changes and their impacts” is, however, the only programme in that document that explicitly mentions biodiversity. Nevertheless, given the urgency of other climate actions, like flood risk management or inventing climate-resilient crops, one may expect biodiversity-related actions to get less priority among the 44 programmes listed in the BCCSAP.

Back in 2010, when Bangladeshi climate change activists and environmentalists were disappointed with the outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 2009 and the country’s own Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) and the donor-funded Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) were yet to be functional, something fantastic happened. Two long-term development partners of Bangladesh, the British Department for International Development (DFID) and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), supported the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to produce the “Protocol for Monitoring of Impacts of Climate Change and Climate Variability in Bangladesh”.

This was indeed a ground-breaking effort by Bangladesh. After rigorous exercise, detailed methodologies and indicators were developed to measure climate change impacts on the biodiversity of our rivers, wetlands, coasts, sea, and forests. It also



PHOTO: SAYAM U CHOWDHURY

did the same for other important areas, like hydro-meteorology, agriculture, livestock, human health, livelihoods, and poverty. After its publication in 2011, if used, this comprehensive impact monitoring protocol could have helped us to learn how our biodiversity has been changing over the past decade due to climate change and how to respond to that.

Unfortunately, this never happened—a missed opportunity indeed. In fact, this document and long-term biodiversity monitoring simply disappeared from the climate change discussions in Bangladesh. It is not mentioned, for example, in the second and third National Communications on climate change submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2012 and 2018, respectively, or in the sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) submitted in November 2019.

The BCCRF has so far allocated around USD 385 million to a wide range of ministries, agencies and NGOs to implement about 660 climate change projects. However,

it did not fund any large-scale, long-term biodiversity and ecosystem monitoring project; it only supported a short-term one in the coastal areas, with the Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), through the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) in 2013.

Bangladesh has completed a good number of biodiversity projects since the impact monitoring protocol was finalised. Large, multi-year conservation projects, like the Integrated Protected Area Conservation (2009–2012) and Climate Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (2013–2018), both supported by USAID, engaged in biodiversity monitoring in the protected areas to check project impacts. The Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project (2009–2016), supported by the German agency GIZ, monitored the aquatic biodiversity of the wetlands and rivers of the Rajshahi region, continuing two years after the main project activities were finished. However, none of these projects, such as the USD 36 million Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Project (2011–2016) of the

Bangladesh Forest Department or the Switzerland-funded Tanguar Haor project (2006–2016) of the IUCN, thought of monitoring climate change impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems.

These missed opportunities show that even long-term conservation initiatives that are sufficiently funded by single donors can fail to acknowledge the need for long-term biodiversity monitoring with regard to climate change. They failed to see beyond the project tenure. Our recent conservation projects have been thinking more of people, rather than biodiversity *per se*.

It is true—we have lost a decade and are still yet to combine biodiversity monitoring with climate change, but let us now look forward by looking into the past. One of the best examples of long-term monitoring of biodiversity in Bangladesh is the migratory water bird census. Every winter, the Bangladesh Bird Club (BBC), a group of bird-enthusiasts, coordinates this survey in haors, riverine chars, and the coastal areas of Bangladesh. Over the last three decades, this census has been giving us a yearly picture

of migratory water birds, their numbers and diversity. We can now use this large database and link it with national and regional climate data from the past 30 years to explain changes in the migratory birds’ visits to Bangladesh.

We can do the same for other ecosystems. Numerous projects and individual researchers have been collecting biodiversity and ecological data from different forests and wetlands, as well as natural and modified ecosystems, for a long time. We can compile the data, analyse it, and study the trends of change in certain wildlife, plants or other elements of a particular ecosystem over the past few decades. Relating biodiversity data with changes in our climate could help us to forecast the future trends and plan for it.

But who will lead or coordinate such ventures? We have two real opportunities before us. The Bangladesh Forest Department is now implementing the USD 175 million Sustainable Forests and Livelihoods (SUFAL) project, funded by the World Bank, to be run till 2023. This project has an “Innovation Window” to fund research proposals, including those related to climate change impacts on forests and biodiversity conservation. SUFAL can take up the impact monitoring protocol developed by the IUCN in 2011, update it, and start implementation. This would be a fantastic step forward, one which should have started long ago.

The second opportunity comes with the second phase of the Sundarban Management Project (2019–22). In this phase, GIZ plans to establish a model of ecological monitoring of the Sundarbans, which will later be scaled up for the whole forest. UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee (WHC) has been expecting ecological monitoring reports on the Bangladesh Sundarbans since 2016. In 2017, the Bangladesh Forest Department compiled available ecological data and submitted a report to the WHC. That report could be a good starting point and climate change-biodiversity aspects could be included in it, which is also what the WHC suggested.

We talk about creating new forests with billions of seedlings to remove extra carbon dioxide from the air and fight climate change. Stopping ecological destruction, protecting existing forests and wetlands, and restoring damaged ecosystems are also an important part of reducing climate change impacts. At the same time, we should immediately put together our biodiversity information and climate data, in order to analyse the past changes, predict the future, and make preparations for what lies ahead.

Dr Haseeb Md Irfanullah is a biologist-turned-development-practitioner with a keen interest in research and its communication. He is an independent consultant working on environment, climate change, and research systems. His Twitter handle is @hmirfanullah



পাবেন বেশি

দেবেন কম

বাংলাদেশে এই প্রথম

ক্যাশ ইন-এ
প্রতি হাজারে
৫ টাকা
ক্যাশ ব্যাক

প্রতি হাজারে
ক্যাশ আউট চার্জ
১৪.৫
টাকা



নগদ
ডাক বিভাগের ডিজিটাল লেনদেন

ডায়াল *৯৬৭৯ | বিকল্পিত আনব্রহে 16167 | 09609616167 | nagad.com.bd

App ডাউনলোড
করতে স্ক্যান করুন



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: Dwip Gallery
Date: February 19- 29
Time: 3pm to 9 pm (February 19 from 6pm to 9pm)



Art Workshop
Title: Kata Kuti - Collage Workshop
by Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo
Venue: Studio 6/6 (Mohammadpur)
Date: February 22
Time: 11 am to 6 pm

A WALK DOWN THE MEMORY LANE

Shahiduzzaman Selim reminisces his roots

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award winning actor-director Shahiduzzaman Selim is a prominent artiste in the theatre, television and films. Since 1983, Selim has been a part of Dhaka Theatre. The actor, along with some of his peers, formed Jahangirnagar Theatre, which is active to this day. In an interview with *The Daily Star*, the multi-talented personality shared the memories of his early days in the industry.

After getting admission in Jahangirnagar University (JU) in 1983, Selim and his friends went on a rehearsal for a stage show, which was led by Humayun Faridi. Faridi was the secretary of drama in the Chhatro Sangsad of JU at that time. "As he was rehearsing for *Abar Baul Aibo Fira*, when I entered in the room," shares Selim, "He kept telling me to read a dialogue, without even looking at me! Interestingly, he did not know who I was. However, when I read the line, he instantly cast me as the protagonist for that play," says a nostalgic Selim. His journey in acting started at that point.

Shahiduzzaman Selim was the first among his peers to get the opportunity to act in Dhaka Theatre. "I would come to TSC (Teacher-Student Centre) every day from JU for rehearsals. Those days were very exciting," he recalls.

After completing his studies, Selim came back to Dhaka and started a day job. Due to the job, he had to keep himself away from acting for some time. "A few days before *Keramot Mongol* was about to be staged, the protagonist fell sick," he shares. "However, I was called to be the proxy, and this is how I came back to acting." The actor amazed everyone with his performance, and kept working with the group.

The actor-director attributes 1987 as one of the most significant years of his life. "This was the year when I started to be cast as the protagonist, instead of just a backup," he states.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

While working on the play *Haat Hodai* (Seven types of groceries), by Dhaka Theatre, Selim was called for the auditions arranged by Bangladesh Television (BTV), where he was selected. "Besides theatre, I worked in the mega serial *Jonaki Jole*, telecasted on BTV, which brought me a lot of popularity at that time,"

recalls the artiste.

Shahiduzzaman Selim, in his life, let many opportunities go, for his passion in acting. The diligent actor told *The Daily Star* that wants to keep working in this field for the rest of his life, with the appreciation and support from his fans and well-wishers.

EKUSHEY SPOTLIGHT

‘Chokhey Tar Shishirer Ghran’ portrays 22 fragments of our bittersweet lives

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

"In our lives, we go through many hardships. However, a fleeting moment of joy is able to trump all of them, and make you happy," said Taposh Barua, a former student of journalism, who had his first book release at the Ekushey Boi Mela.

Chokhey Tar Shishirer Ghran is a result of the writer's keen interest in portraying the bittersweet moments in our lives, even amidst the mountain of struggles that we have to overcome. "None of the stories I wrote span more than 1500 words," said Taposh, who is heavily inspired by Banaphul and Zahir Raihan. "These are fragments of the society that we live in." *Chokhey Tar Shishirer Ghran* is comprised of stories



PHOTO: COURTESY

like *Service Charge*, *Nimontion*, *Tobu Shey Dekhilo Kon Bhoot* and *Purono Ami*. Published by Jayoti Prokashoni, it is available at their stall (458-459) at Sohrawardi Udyan in the Ekushey Boi Mela for BDT 200.



Indonesian artist collective Ruangrupa to curate 'Documenta 15' in 2022

PRIYANKA CHOWDHURY

This year, the Dhaka Art Summit collaborated with around 30 artist collectives from home and abroad. One of them was Ruangrupa, a group of artists and creators from Jakarta, showcasing numerous interesting concepts. The collective has been appointed as the curators and artistic directors of the exhibition, *Documenta 15*, in Germany in 2022. Farid Rakun (Ruangrupa), MG Pringgotono (Serrum) and JJ Adibrata (Serrum) took out some time from their busy schedule to discuss their collective art practices with *The Daily Star*.

Two years after the fall of the repressive Soeharto regime (1998), the collective made maximum use of their newly found freedom. "The fall of the regime was one of the causes, but it was also MTV that inspired us to form the collective," explains Rakun. "Some of us were

board member of Serrum, the ecosystem offers 11 courses for the students. "We do not follow the top-down method. Rather, we initiate dialogues on socio-political and urban issues with an educational and artistic approach," explains Adibrata. Such initiatives often face challenges when it comes to sustainability. "If the concepts are owned by the community, then it will have better chances to grow," suggests Pringgotono.

The trio explained that there is no formula to form a collective. "There are defined opportunities for artist collectives in recent times, but I do not think artists should fall for those. It is not the definition but the context that matters," adds Adibrata.

Appointed unanimously by the board, Ruangrupa is set to curate the 15th edition of the renowned international exhibition of contemporary art, *Documenta*, which began in 1955. This marks the first



PHOTO: MONON MUNTAKA

really interested to learn how to make videos. We actually got together quite coincidentally."

With an objective to make art to serve their community, Ruangrupa, together with Serrum and Grafis Huru Hara, initiated GUDSKUL: Contemporary Art Collective and Ecosystem Studies in 2018. It is a public learning space that promotes the importance of critical and experimental dialogues through sharing and experience-based learning.

MG Pringgotono, the director of GUDSKUL, described the venture as a responsible one. "We believe in collective ideas. While some institutions want students to work individually, we believe that working together can bring better results. That is why we call it an ecosystem," says the director.

According to JJ Adibrata, an artistic

time that an artist collective has been selected to curate *Documenta*, and the first time that its curatorial leadership has come from Asia. Ruangrupa is expected to highlight inclusion and diversity in their approach. Each individual in the collective comes from different backgrounds and disciplines. "Learning should not be a parasitic concept but a mutual one, where everyone can learn from each other. We see *Documenta* as an opportunity to connect, learn and share with others," explains Rakun.

During the Dhaka Art Summit this year, Jog Art Space, Ruangrupa and Gudskul made a collaborative project from the collective body, Gerobak Cinema or Cinema Cart. The project was reimagined with a Bangladeshi rickshaw and a two-hour video was projected on a screen at Ramna Bridge for public viewing.



Rafiqun Nabi (R) with his siblings at the exhibition.

PHOTO: STAR

‘Parampara’ celebrates art and family history

SUMAIYA KABIR

Parampara, a slightly different exhibition, opened at Gallery Chitrak on February 15. While it is still a regular display of photographs and paintings, what makes it unique is the tribute it pays, as well as the lives of the two generations of artists it celebrates.

Parampara is an ode to artist Rashidun Nabi (1914-1995). Besides his own art practices, throughout his life, he also ensured that his children are just as inspired to pursue art. In order to pay respect to such a fact, *Parampara* exhibits a collection of his most powerful artworks, alongside that of his sons, the distinguished artists Rafiqun Nabi and Rezaun Nabi, renowned photographer Tauhidun Nabi as well as his daughter-in-law,

Sohana Shahreen.

The exhibition was opened by eminent artist Mustafa Monwar, chaired by Professor Bulbul Osman, with painter Hashem Khan as the special guest. The artists began the ceremony by talking about their late father and the life he'd lived. Despite his love for art, Rashidun Nabi unfortunately never had a proper exhibition or received recognition for the talented artist he truly was. As it so often happens, life takes you places the hard way and art falls behind. *Parampara* fulfills such a long gone wish, and also greatly celebrates his successors, who say they are nothing without their father's contribution to their creativity.

Rashidun Nabi gifted many of his paintings to his close ones. Subsequently, collecting all of his best works were difficult.

Nevertheless, around 70 paintings are on exhibit at the event. Most of his paintings portray a raw and rural Bangladesh – from its villages to its boats, rivers, birds, animals as well as its ever changing seasons and its women – through ink or watercolour on paper. Some of Rashidun Nabi's clay works are also on display.

Other art pieces displayed include Rafiqun Nabi's pencil sketches, woodcuts, charcoal drawings on paper, Tauhidun Nabi's photographic captures from his travels to India, Egypt, Bhutan, Singapore and Paris, as well as Rezaun Nabi and Sohana Shahreen's acrylic and watercolor paintings on canvas.

Parampara will remain open for all until February 29 at Gallery Chitrak from 10 am to 8 pm every day.



Music video for Kamal Ahmed and Priyanka Biswas's 'Shudhu Bhalobasha' released

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The music video for Kamal Ahmed and Priyanka Biswas's duet, *Shudhu Bhalobasha*, was published by Laser Vision in their official YouTube channel, recently. The song, featured in the audio album *Neel Shamudro*, is written by Munshi Wadud and composed by Fuad Naseer. The music video has been directed by Zamiur Rahman Lemon.

A Shaheed Minar falling apart

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Just a couple of days ahead of Language Martyrs' Day on February 21, the central Shaheed Minar of Kulaura upazila under Moulvibazar lies in an awful condition.

Visiting the Shaheed Minar a few days ago, this correspondent saw large cracks in the structure while its surroundings remained dirty.

"This Shaheed Minar built in Kulaura municipality in 2002 is now on the verge of collapse due to lack of maintenance amid utter negligence of the authorities concerned. Often cattle roam around on its premises," said Mahfuz Shakil, a local journalist.

People from different areas of the upazila come to the Shaheed Minar to pay respect to the martyrs of 1952 Language Movement on February 21 every year but the authorities seem too forgetful about its maintenance, said locals.

Roksana Rahman, mother of a student at Kulaura Girls' School in the upazila town, said she is afraid to send her daughter to the Shaheed Minar for any programme due

to its risky condition.

It is regrettable that garbage is dumped just beside the Shaheed Minar, said Nasir Uddin, a fruit trader in the area.

"People coming to see the Shaheed Minar get upset due to its dilapidated condition and stink from the garbage," said Munem Ahmed, who came to visit the Shaheed Minar from Nomoja village in Kulaura upazila.

Mohammad Ali, a resident of Magura area under Kulaura municipality, said the entrance of the memorial gets flooded even in a moderate shower due to poor drainage facilities around.

"We raised the issue with the local authorities on several occasions but to no avail," he added.

Syed Mahfuz Hamid, founder of Facebook group 'Kulaura problems and prospects', said, "This Shaheed Minar has become so rickety that no repair work will be enough. It needs major renovation or reconstruction."

Contacted, Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer ATM Farhad Chowdhury said they have taken an initiative to repair the Shaheed Minar before February 21.



With large cracks, the central Shaheed Minar of Kulaura upazila under Moulvibazar remains awfully risky, much to the worry of locals ahead of the Ekushey February. Inset, garbage dumping just beside the language martyrs' memorial bears testimony to the callousness of the authorities concerned regarding maintenance of the premises.

PHOTO: STAR

Lalmonirhat village roads damaged by kiln owners

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A two-and-half kilometre road at Dhairkhata village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila has almost been badly damaged due to random movement of overloaded tractors carrying earth for a brick kiln.

The road's condition becomes worse when it rains, said locals.

Like Dhairkhat, village roads around 47 brick kilns in five upazilas of the district are in bad condition due to plying of overloaded earth-laden tractors.

There are paved roads at some places, but condition of the roads also worsens, said Delwar Hossain, a farmer of Pashchim Nawdabansh village in Hatibandha upazila.

Carpeting of many parts of the village roads wore off and a number of potholes developed on the roads, said local people.

The roads have become almost unfit for vehicular movement during the rainy season, they said.

The villagers said tractors carrying earth being used for making bricks continued plying the roads, but no one dares to protest against it as the brick kiln owners are very powerful and influential.

Shahidul Islam, owner of a brick kiln at Bamonerbasa village in Aditmari upazila, said as



PHOTO: STAR

Village roads are being damaged due to random movement of tractors carrying earth for brick kilns in Lalmonirhat. The photo was taken from Dhairkhata village in Sadar upazila recently.

they pay tax to the government, there is no bar to use the village road.

The road has been damaged lightly due to movement of tractors, said Shahidul.

Ashraf Ali Khan, executive engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Lalmonirhat, said the village roads in the upazilas are being damaged due to plying of earth-laden tractors.

The brick kiln owners will be given letter to stop random movement of the tractors, said the LGED engineer.

RAPES IN THREE DISTRICTS

Two including 85-yr-old sent to jail

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people including an 85-year-old man were sent to jail over rape of children in separate incidents in Tangail and Sunamganj yesterday, while a man was arrested on Sunday night on charge of raping a woman in Jashore.

A Tangail court sent Hasan Ali, 85, from Madhupur upazila, to jail after he was produced before it. Police arrested the man on Sunday, reports our Tangail correspondent.

Tarik Kamal, OC of Madhupur Police Station, said the accused lured the child, a pre-primary student at a local school, into his house around 11:30am on Sunday with a pack of chips.

He then raped her after gagging her with a piece of cloth. At one stage, the gag slipped off her mouth and she started screaming for help. Locals then came to her rescue and caught the accused. Informed, police arrived at the scene and arrested Hasan.

The child's mother filed a case with the police station that night, the OC said, adding that they sent the victim to Tangail General Hospital yesterday for medical tests.

In Sunamganj, a court sent a youth to jail after he was produced before it over rape of a fourth-grader in Bishwambharpur upazila.

Abu Sufian, 21, forcibly took the 10-year-old girl near a paddy field and raped her around 7:00pm on Saturday while she was on way to her relative's house, our Moulvibazar correspondent reports quoting her relatives.

The severely injured girl was first given treatment at the upazila health complex and later transferred to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital as her condition deteriorated.

Rafiqul Islam, a doctor at the hospital, said her condition was improving.

Contacted, Bishwambharpur Police Station OC Mahbubur Rahman said the child's father filed a case with the police station on Sunday morning and they arrested the accused in the afternoon.

In Jashore, Sumon Hossain, 35, from Abhaynagar Sadar upazila, was arrested around midnight on Sunday for raping a 20-year-old woman earlier that night, reports our Benapole correspondent.

Quoting the statement of the case, filed by the victim, OC Tajul Islam of Abhaynagar Police Station said Sumon and his cohorts entered the woman's house by force and raped her in her bedroom while her husband and other family members were out of the house.

Police sent her to Jashore General Hospital for medical tests yesterday.

21 hurt in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Fairdipur

At least 21 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over establishing supremacy at Choto Nowdubi village in Nagarkanda upazila of the district yesterday morning.

Six houses were also damaged and looted during the incident, said police.

The injured were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital and Nagarkanda Upazila Health Complex.

Locals said there had been a longstanding conflict between one Shahin Matabbar and Joynal Matabbar of the village over establishing supremacy in the area.

As a sequel to the conflict, the supporters of Sahin and Joynal attacked each other with lethal weapons around 8:00am yesterday. At the time, 21 people from both sides were injured.

Six houses were also damaged and looted during the clash.

Of the injured, four injured were admitted to the hospital and the rest to the health complex.

Sohel Rana, officer-in-charge of Nagarkanda Police Station, said on information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.



Hundreds of inhabitants in Barabogi and Sonakata unions in Barguna's Taltali upazila have been suffering immensely after this bridge collapsed on January 20. Built on a canal running between the two unions in 1992, the bridge is the only means of communications for residents as well as for people visiting several tourist attractions in the area -- Tengragiri Eco Park, Guamtala and Rakhine villages in Saudagar Para and Kobiraj Para Bazar.

PHOTO: SOHRABHOSSAIN

TRAWLER CAPSIZE IN BAY

3 more bodies found, death toll now 21

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three more bodies were recovered from the Bay of Bengal between Sunday and yesterday morning, taking the death toll in the February 11 trawler capsized to 21 now.

Coast Guard members recovered two bodies from the sea near St Martin's Island yesterday morning and the other was recovered on Sunday, said Lt Nayeem-ul-Haque, Coast Guard commander of St Martin's Island base.

"It has been confirmed that the three people were on board the trawler that capsized in the Bay," said Prodipt Kumar Das, OC of Teknaf Police Station.

The Coast Guard on Friday and Saturday recovered three other bodies, said Lt Nayeem.

On February 11, a trawler carrying Rohingya refugees, who were trying to go to Malaysia illegally, capsized in the Bay around 5:45am near Zinjira point, some 8km northwest of St Martin's Island and drowning of at least 15 people were confirmed after the incident, said Lt Hayat Ibna Siddique, media officer of Bangladesh Coast Guard.

Afterwards, 72 people, including four boatmen, were rescued, while 50 others are feared missing.

Another trawler, which also capsized in the same area that day, is yet to be traced.

At least 300 people started for Malaysia on the two trawlers from Monakhali area around 8:00pm on February 10.

So far, nine people including the four boatmen were arrested in a case filed in this connection with Teknaf Police Station.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
Director, Stores & Supplies				
Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka.				
Tender for Goods (Multiple Lots)				
Ref. No.CMSD/G-1907/ICT/19-20/D-2/71			Dated: 17/02/2020	
KEY INFORMATION				
1	Procurement Method / Document		ICT Open	
FUNDING INFORMATION				
2	Source of Funds		Development Budget (Government)	
3	Development Partner			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
4	Project / Programme Code			
5	Project / Programme Name		4th HPNSP	
6	Tender Package No.		G-1907	
7	Tender Package Name		Procurement of "Lab Equipment (NCL)"	
8	Tender Publication Date		19/02/2020	
9	Tender Last Selling Date		05/04/2020	
10	Tender Closing Date and time		06/04/2020 11:00 AM	
11	Tender Opening Date and time		06/04/2020 11:30 AM	
12	Name and Address of the Office(s)			
	-Selling Tender Document(Principal)		Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Swarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka.	
	-Selling Tender Document(Others)		CMSD	
	-Receiving Tender Document		Do	
	-Opening Tender Document		Do	
13	Place/Date/Time for Pre-Tender Meeting		CMSD, Conference Room (# 115), Date: 04/03/2020 Time: 11:30 AM	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
14	Eligibility of Tenderer		As mentioned in the Tender Document.	
15	Brief Description of Goods or Works		Procurement of "Lab Equipment (NCL)"	
16	Brief Description of Related Services		Procurement of "Lab Equipment (NCL)"	
17	Tender Document Price		BDT 4,000.00 (Taka four thousand) or US\$ 50.00 (US Dollar fifty) only payment will be in Pay Order from any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh.	
17	Lot No	Identification	Location	Tender Security Amount in Taka
	Lot-1	Procurement of Lab Equipment (Analytical Balance, Disintegration Machine, Dissolution Tester, Data Logger, Millikpore Filter Unit, Pycnometer & Pyrometer).	CMSD	BDT 95,000.00 or US\$ 1,000.00
	Lot-2	Procurement of Lab Equipment (HPLC (Thermodinex ion chromatogram system for polysaccharide, Column & Accessories).	CMSD	BDT 1,75,000.00 or US\$ 2,000.00
	Lot-3	Procurement of Lab Equipment (Raman & UV-Vis Spectrophotometer, Spectrometer-FTIR & Lamps for AAS).	CMSD	BDT 3,00,000.00 or US\$ 3,500.00
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
18	Name of Official Inviting Tender		Brigadier General Md Shahidullah	
19	Designation of Official Inviting Tender		Director, Stores & Supplies, CMSD,Tejgaon,Dhaka.	
20	Address of Official Inviting Tender		Tejgaon, Dhaka	
21	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender		Tel. No: Tel: 9129231 Fax: Fax 88-02-9126547 E-mail: cmsdstore@dhaka.net	
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders				



BALL IN SELECTORS' COURT

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has been bowling regularly and doing gym work individually at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur. Ask any Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) official, he is still the Bangladesh ODI captain. It is however not clear whether he will play the three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe starting from March 1 in Sylhet. Mashrafe didn't play any international match for the Tigers since Bangladesh's last ICC World Cup match against Pakistan at Lord's last July. The future of Bangladesh's ODI captain in international cricket has been a hot topic after his sordid performance in the World Cup and a generally unremarkable BBPL campaign, but the player himself recently made it clear that he would continue to play cricket and his selection for the national team is up to the national selectors. He had also opted out from the central contracts. The selectors, however has no definitive answer regarding his future, though they have little time to make up their minds for the upcoming series. Apparently, the ball is now in the selectors' court!

SPORTS REPORTER

Will there be home advantage against Zimbabwe?

SPORTS REPORTER



International cricket is set to return to the country for the first time in 2020 as Bangladesh will host Zimbabwe, starting with the lone Test from February 22 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Things have not gone well for the Tigers, especially in the longest format, in the recent past and the Bangladesh team management will be eager to return to winning ways against Zimbabwe, who were competitive in their last series, at home against Sri Lanka.

There have been a lot of questions about Bangladesh's approach in the longest format as the Tigers have lost all five Tests in 2019 and started off the new year with a punishing innings and 44-run defeat to Pakistan in the first Test in Rawalpindi.

Bangladesh have lost five of their last six Tests by innings margins, forcing selectors to make frequent changes to the side.

Apart from the inability to adapt to the longest format of the game the team management have also seemed clueless when it comes to reading pitches, both at home and abroad.



Alarming, while most international sides look to exploit the home advantage with the pitch, Bangladesh have generally appeared confused about how to use home conditions to their advantage and form an appropriate playing eleven.

The last Test that Bangladesh played at home ended in a humiliating 224-run defeat against Afghanistan, who were playing just their third Test, at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram.

During that loss, the team management did not field any

seamer in the playing eleven but it was the visitors who were able to take the advantage from the pitch as Rashid Khan took a toll on the home side with his leg-spin.

The lack of clarity from the Bangladesh team management, when it comes to a proper game plan in the longest format, has subsequently hurt the Tigers' approach and brought about results like the 151-run defeat against Zimbabwe in the first Test in Sylhet back in 2018.

It was the confused approach from the Bangladesh team management

that led the Tigers to defeat against Zimbabwe as the home side fielded just one seamer, expecting a spin-friendly track. But it was the visitors who went on to enjoy all the advantage with their two specialist pacers in the side after the Sylhet pitch behaved in a sporting manner, with bounce and carry.

However, the theory of the tailor-made spin tracks in 2016 and 2017 did work well for Tigers at home where Bangladesh went on to beat England and Australia in Mirpur with great affect.

The Tigers did register a thumping innings and 184-run-win over West Indies back in December 2018 in their last game in Mirpur, courtesy of a spinning track and once again, it's the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium that is going to host the lone Test against Zimbabwe.

It will be interesting to see whether head coach Russell Domingo opts for the same spin heavy strategy against Zimbabwe in Mirpur. However, the selectors, who included five seamers and two specialist spinners in the squad, as speculations over the pitch in Mirpur will once again take the centre stage and the question remains, what will be the Tigers' strategy this time?

Yasir blitzes East into the final

SPORTS REPORTER



Yasir Ali celebrated his Test call-up with a blitzed hundred yesterday at Cox's Bazar as East Zone overcame a tough target in one session on the fourth day against North Zone to reach the final of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL). The final day saw exciting finishes as South Zone managed a nail-biting draw against Central Zone in the other match. The final between East Zone and South Zone will take place at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram from February 22.

North Zone were bowled out for 269 runs just before the tea break in their second innings after resuming the day on 145 for five, to set a stiff 211-run target for East Zone. Spinner Nayeem Hasan claimed five wickets.

East Zone reached the target in just 34.5 overs thanks to Yasir, who followed up his 165, in the first innings with an 88-ball 110, laced with eight fours and five sixes. He starred in a 170-run second-wicket stand with Mohammad Ashraful, who remained unbeaten on an 86-ball 70. Yasir's departure did not hinder East Zone as Imrul Kayes (17 off 16) and Ashraful saw them off to victory by eight wickets.

In the other match, South Zone required another 348 for victory with six wickets remaining against North after resuming the day on 159 for four.

Shamsur Rahman and Nasum Ahmed paired up in a fantastic 139-run fifth-wicket partnership with Shamsur hitting 133 off 230 balls. Off-



YASIR ALI...110

As East Zone's Yasir Ali put the North Zone bowlers to the sword in chase of an improbable target, wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim could not resist trying himself as a bowler. Off-spinner Mushfiqur however bowled three overs without any success. It was only the third instance in his career that the former Bangladesh skipper bowled in first-class competition.

spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz brought crucial breakthroughs for North, scalping four wickets in the second innings.

With an hour left to go, South were 356 for

SCORES IN BRIEF

CENTRAL v SOUTH

CENTRAL ZONE: First innings 235 and second innings 385 for 8 declared.

SOUTH ZONE: First innings 114 for 4 declared and second innings 386 for 9 (Anamul 83, Fazle 25, Sham-sur 133, Nasum 85, Farhad 27 not out; Mehedi 4-136, Shuvagata 3-59)

Result: Match drawn.

Player-of-the-match: Nasum Ahmed.

NORTH v EAST

NORTH ZONE: First innings 272 and second innings 269 all out (Junaid 36, Naeem 35, Mushfiqur 38, Mahidul 44, Sunzamul 24, Sanjit 36 not out; Nayeem 5-101, Saqlain 2-58)

EAST ZONE: First innings 331 and second innings 211 for 2 (Ashraful 70 not out, Yasir 110; Sunzamul 1-61)

Result: East Zone won by 8 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Yasir Ali.

seven before Nasum, who occupied the crease for 342 minutes, was removed by Arafat Sunny for 83 and Abdur Razzak departed to Suvagata Hom two overs later to leave them with just one wicket in hand. Farhad Reza and Shafuil Islam stood guard and managed to play out almost 10 overs during their last-wicket 14-run partnership to hand a draw to South Zone.



Mohammad Mithun runs during individual training at the BCB Academy ground in Mirpur yesterday. The Tigers' official training camp for the upcoming one-off Test, three ODIs and two-match T20I series against Zimbabwe will begin today.

PHOTO: STAR

We are ready for the World Cup: Salma Faf quits as SA skipper

ICC



We need to look at that Test we won against Bangladesh (in Sylhet); about how we played and achieved that victory. We need to repeat that type of performance. Bangladesh is a difficult away tour to play cricket. We just need to make sure that we are on point again and hopefully we will come out good this time as well.

REGIS CHAKABVA
Zimbabwe batsman



Bangladesh broke the mould when beating India in the 2018 Asia Cup but for captain Salma Khatun, the focus is all on the present day.

Salma's side powered past their rivals for the first time in the group stage, going on to show that success was no fluke with victory in the final.

Two years on and the two sides will meet again in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020, with the Tigers keen to show how far they have come since that breakthrough moment.

They will take heart from the feats of compatriots as well, with Bangladesh winning the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in South Africa earlier this year.

But skipper Salma knows their focus can't just be on India given the challenges posed by New Zealand and hosts in Australia in Group A - two sides they have yet to play in T20I cricket.

"Our U19 World Cup was a great moment. We are ready for the World Cup," said Salma, speaking at the captains' media day at Taronga Zoo, Sydney.

"The Asia Cup was a great experience, but the focus is now on the World Cup. We want to be focusing on New Zealand and Australia instead.

"We are proud of what has happened before."

HIGHLIGHTS

Bangladesh twice beat India in the 2018 Asia Cup

The two countries will meet again in the Tigers' fourth Women's T20 World Cup

Salma's side also face Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka as they bid for the semifinals



(L-R) The captains of the ten competing teams in the Twenty20 Women's World Cup--Sornnarin Tippoch (Thailand), Harmanpreet Kaur (India), Sophie Devine (New Zealand), Stafanie Taylor (West Indies), Meg Lanning (Australia), Chamari Atapattu (Sri Lanka), Dane van Niekerk (South Africa), Heather Knight (England), Salma Khatun (Bangladesh) and Bismah Maroof (Pakistan) -- pose with the trophy during an official photo session at the Taronga Zoo in Sydney yesterday.

India will be Bangladesh's first opponents in Australia, in Perth on 24 February, prior to playing Meg Lanning's team in Canberra.

They then head to Melbourne for two games, against New Zealand and Sri Lanka, to determine whether they reach the Women's T20 World Cup semi-finals for the first time.

Their team may be lacking in experience playing Down Under, but not so Rumana Ahmed, who joined Brisbane Heat as an ICC Rookie for the Women's Big Bash League in 2017.

"Coming here was a big opportunity for me, it was the first time I had been able to come to

Australia," said Rumana, who played a starring role in the Asia Cup success over India.

"I learned a lot from here, especially how big teams practice.

"Every session I learned something, how they work in the gym and on their fitness, and it was a very good opportunity for me.

"We were very proud of the U19 team, we were very happy and we have gained some confidence from them.

"We are very confident, it is the first time we are here so Australia haven't seen us and we haven't seen them."

AFP, Johannesburg



Faf du Plessis announced on Monday that he was stepping down as South Africa's cricket captain with immediate effect.

Du Plessis, 35, said he needed to take "a step back" from the captaincy in order to help the emergence of the next generation of leaders under Quinton de Kock.

De Kock led the team in recent one-day and Twenty20 internationals against England while Du Plessis was being rested.

It was announced last month that De Kock would be South Africa's long-term one-day captain but in Monday's statement, Du Plessis said he was also relinquishing the Test and T20 captaincy.

The announcement clears the way for De Kock to lead South Africa at the T20 World Cup in Australia in October and November and possibly to lead the Test team in a two-match series in the West Indies in July and August.

In a statement issued by Cricket South Africa, Du Plessis said he wanted to concentrate on contributing to the team as a batsman and senior player.

Du Plessis captained South Africa in 112 matches across all formats, including 36 Tests.

He said his time away from cricket since the end of the Test series against England last month had given him "a lot of perspective".

Du Plessis added, "It has been a rewarding, sometimes tough and other times a lonely road, but I would not replace the experience for anything, because it has made me the man that I am proud to be today."

He said the decision to step down was one of the toughest decisions he had made but he said he was committed to supporting De Kock, coach Mark Boucher and the rest of his teammates.

Du Plessis took over as limited overs captain in 2012 and became Test captain in 2016.

What to WATCH

TEN 1

UEFA Champions League

Dortmund v PSG

Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

TEN 2

UEFA Champions League

Atletico Madrid v Liverpool

Live from 2:00am (Wednesday)

DAY'S EVENT

Bangladesh Premier League

Muktijoddha v Sheikh Jamal

Time: 3:15pm

Venue: Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni Stadium, Gopalganj

Ctg Abahani v Arambagh KS

Time: 6:30pm

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chattogram

Two-day practice match

BCB XI v Zimbabweans

Time: 9:30am

Venue: BKSP

MUNICH DISASTER HERO HARRY GREGG NO MORE

Former Manchester United goalkeeper and Munich air disaster hero Harry Gregg has died at the age of 87, the Premier League club said on Monday. Gregg, a Northern Ireland international, helped rescue some of his teammates and other passengers after the plane crash in Munich on Feb. 6, 1958, which killed 23 people - including eight of his fellow players. He played 247 times for the Old Trafford club between 1957 and 1966. "It is with deepest sadness that we have learned of the passing of former player Harry Gregg OBE," United wrote on Twitter. "The thoughts and prayers of everyone at the club go out to Harry's family and friends." Gregg's charitable foundation said the goalkeeping great died in Causeway Hospital in Coleraine. Gregg won 25 caps for Northern Ireland between 1954 and 1963. He played in the 1958 World Cup and was voted goalkeeper of the tournament.

-- REUTERS



Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah (R) jokes with teammate Takumi Minamino during a practice session in Melwood yesterday, the eve of their Champions League fixture against Atletico Madrid.

PHOTO: AFP

Liverpool the team to beat

AFP, London



Liverpool return to the scene of their Champions League triumph when they visit Atletico Madrid's Wanda Metropolitano on Tuesday very much the team to beat for those hoping to succeed Jurgen Klopp's men as European champions.

Liverpool are coasting towards a first Premier League title in 30 years having dropped just two points all season and are likely to be crowned English champions before the Champions League quarterfinals commence in early April.

Liverpool remain on course for a potential five-trophy haul this season. They have already lifted the UEFA Super Cup and Club World Cup and are used to reaching European finals under Klopp.

"I have no clue if we can win the Champions League again but we should be ready to go for it," said Klopp. "What I know and what we showed last year is that we can beat the best."

On current form Atletico are little match for the holders.

For the first time in over eight years in charge, the future of Diego Simeone has been questioned with Los Rojiblancos languishing well off the pace in La Liga and battling just to qualify for next season's Champions League.

By contrast, Liverpool have

hit the money with almost every major signing in recent years.

With Alisson Becker, Virgil van Dijk, Fabinho, Sadio Mane and Mohamed Salah they have built a side capable of not just winning, but retaining the Champions League.

Simeone's Atletico sides that came so close to winning the competition in losing two finals to rivals Real in 2014 and 2016 were built on the most miserly defence.

But even the Argentine would be impressed by Liverpool's run of winning their last 11 league games by the combined score of 24-1.

Across the continent, no other side looks as well-balanced and settled heading into the latter stages.

Manchester City's stunning two-season ban from the competition handed down by UEFA on Friday means it could be now or never if the English champions are ever to conquer Europe with Pep Guardiola in charge.

However, City are running into a rejuvenated Real Madrid in the last 16, who have shot to the top of La Liga on a 14-game unbeaten run.

Zinedine Zidane has again revived the Spanish giants in his second spell in charge and is yet to lose a Champions League tie after winning the competition during his previous three seasons in charge.

Paris Saint-Germain also begin their quest to overcome three years

Champions League 2019-2020			
Last 16			
1ST LEG			2ND LEG
Feb 18	Dortmund - Paris St Germain		Mar 11
	Atletico Madrid - Liverpool		
Feb 19	Atalanta - Valencia		Mar 10
	Tottenham - RB Leipzig		
Feb 25	Chelsea - Bayern Munich		Mar 18
	Napoli - Barcelona		
Feb 26	Real Madrid - Manchester City		Mar 17
	Lyon - Juventus		
Source: UEFA			

of heartbreak at the last 16 stage on Tuesday when they visit Borussia Dortmund.

Barcelona lurch from one institutional crisis to another and have a new coach, Quique Setien, with no previous Champions League experience for a tricky tie against Napoli.

The success or otherwise of Juventus' season will also be judged on winning the Champions League for the first time in 24 years.

A kind last-16 draw against Lyon should give Maurizio Sarri

more time to turn the Italian champions into potential conquerors of Europe, but big questions are already being asked of Sarri's suitability for that target as Juve are struggling to hold off Inter Milan and Lazio to preserve their domestic dominance in Italy.

Bayern Munich's grip on the Bundesliga is also being challenged this season, but the German giants will be confident of gaining revenge for losing the 2012 Champions League final on home soil to Chelsea.

Yeasin ends foreigners' monopoly

SPORTS REPORTER



A local footballer finally wrote his name in the scoresheet of Bangladesh Premier League as a second-half header from Yeasin Arafat helped hosts Saif SC notch up a single-goal win over visiting Mohammedan at the Shaheed Rafique Uddin Bhuiyan Stadium in Mymensingh yesterday.

The goal helped Yeasin to become the first local player to score in the seventh match of ongoing professional league after nine different foreign players scored nine goals in previous six matches.

The win put Saif on the top of the table with six points from two outings while Mohammedan suffered their first defeat following win over Arambagh in their first match.

Mohammedan looked better at the start of the game in the first 15 minutes when they twice came close to breaking the deadlock but were not lucky enough to take the lead.

Nigerian midfielder Ugochukwu Obi Moneke, who scored the winning goal against Arambagh, tried his luck from the centre-circle in the eighth minute when a poor shot from Saif goalkeeper Pappu Hossain came to him. The Nigerian's long-range attempt went narrowly wide of the open net.

Six minutes later, Obi took a free-kick from the edge of the box and Pappu made a brilliant save before Saif gained confidence to start controlling the game.

Rwandan defender Emery Bayisenge saw his close-range header on a cross from Murolimzhon Akhmedov go straight at Mohammedan goalkeeper Hossain Suzan in the 23rd minute before Faisal Ahmed Fahim floated over the crosspiece in 35th minute.

Saif took the lead in the 56th minute with Yeasin headed home a free-kick from Akhmedov while Mohammedan came close to equalising in the 69th minute but Malian marksman Souleymane Diabate drove wide of target.

With the game entering stoppage time, Mohammedan got a great opportunity to level the margin again but Diabate was wayward with his drive.

Ruhul Amin opts out of BFF presidency campaign

SPORTS REPORTER



With the schedule of the 2020 polls of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yet to be announced, president aspirant Tarafder Ruhul Amin yesterday declared not to contest in April's polls in a bid to avoid an unhealthy situation.

Amin, secretary general of Bangladesh Divisional and District Football Association (BDDFA) and president of Bangladesh Club Association, disclosed his decision at his Mohakhali office in presence of BFF's incumbent vice-president Mohiuddin Ahmed Mohi, BDDFA vice-president Sirajuddin Mohammad Alamgir, former footballers Gaffar Chowdhury, Hasanuzzaman Khan Bablu and a couple of district and divisional football association officials.

"You all know I was the chief election coordinator of a panel [Kazi Salahuddin-led panel] during the 2016 BFF polls and that time the incumbent BFF president [Kazi Salahuddin] declared not to contest further in future. He had appealed to all councillors to elect him for the last time [third successive time] and 95 percent of candidates of our panel passed in the elections.

"BDDFA and Bangladesh Club Association nominated me for contesting in 2020 BFF polls as a president candidate as the incumbent president was not supposed to contest. I was going in that direction but I learnt that the incumbent president will be contesting in the BFF polls for the fourth term even though he had earlier declared not to do

so," said Amin.

"As a result, we observed an unhealthy environment in football and I, after discussing the matter with others, decided to withdraw myself from running for the president post because we all want betterment of football and take football forward. I also want to stay away from the unhealthy environment regarding the polls," Amin said, explaining his decision.



Asked whether there was any pressure from any quarters to withdraw from the BFF polls, Amin said there was none. "I only withdrew myself from the BFF president candidacy temporarily, but I haven't left the election field. The officials of BDDFA and club association will contest in other BFF posts and we will try to give a fittest panel for the BFF polls," he added.

Since the 2016 elections, Amin invested a lot in football by providing financial assistance to district football associations to run district leagues and the Dhaka clubs to run their camps for different leagues. Amin also sponsored Bangladesh Premier League, First, Second and Third division leagues apart from holding a youth tournament across the country.

Incumbent president Kazi Salahuddin welcomed Amin's decision but denied his previous statement of not contesting in BFF polls.

"Anyone who is qualified can contest in BFF polls; there is no barrier to that. I want to thank him for keeping faith on me," Salahuddin told reporters. "I said before that I might or might not contest again and I am still telling the same."

Lazio go second

AFP, Milan



Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi gave warning his side are ready to fight for their first Serie A title since 2000 after moving into second in Serie A on Sunday, just one point off leaders Juventus after a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Inter Milan.

Juventus reclaimed pole position thanks to Paulo Dybala and Juan Cuadrado's goals as the Turin giants rediscovered their winning form 2-0 at home against Brescia.

Inter Milan dropped from top spot to third -- three points behind the eight-time reigning champions -- after falling to just their second defeat of the season.

"We need to stay humble and focused but I'm sure we will succeed. We have nothing to lose," said Inzaghi.

"We know that Juventus and Inter are two

great teams and we will do everything to fight to the end, knowing that it will be very difficult."

In a fiery clash in the Stadio Olimpico defender Ashley Young broke through just before the break with his first Serie A goal for Inter Milan after his move from Manchester United.

The 34-year-old got his foot to tap-in off a rebound after Thomas Strakoska had cleared from former Lazio player Antonio Candreva.

A Stefan de Vrij foul on Ciro Immobile allowed the Serie A top scorer to slot in his 26th goal in 24 games this season, five minutes after the break.

Sergej Milinkovic-Savic snatched the winner after 69 minutes amid confusion in front of goal.

"We gifted Lazio two goals," said Inter coach Antonio Conte.

HEAVEN FORBID

Mishaps & Misfortune can strike "ANY SECOND"

Protect against the horror of financial burden that follows

Open the umbrella of a BGIC policy

1st Private Sector Non Life Insurance Company in Bangladesh

বাংলাদেশ জেনারেল ইনসিওরেন্স কোং লিমিটেড

Bangladesh General Insurance Company Ltd.

Service is Our Strength

Client Service Station

+88-02-47113983

bgicinsurance@yahoo.com

bgicinsurance@gmail.com

www.bgicinsure.com

The Daily Star-এর

২৯তম প্রতিষ্ঠা বার্ষিকীতে

স্বাধীনতা

একটি নতুন যাত্রা আরও একবার

কোন প্রকার চার্জ বা কর্তন ব্যতিরেকে মেয়াদ শেষ হওয়ার পূর্বেই প্রয়োজনে সম্পূর্ণ সঞ্চয় তোলা যায়।

সঞ্চয়ের বিপরীতে ৮০% পর্যন্ত ঋণ সুবিধা পাওয়া যাবে।

মুদ্রাস্ফীত ৫০,০০০ (পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা সঞ্চয়ে প্রতি ২ মাস পর প্রদেয় মুদ্রাস্ফীত পরিমাণ ৯০০ (নয় শত টাকা)

এক, তিন বা পাঁচ বছর মেয়াদের জন্য সর্বনিম্ন ১,০০,০০০/- টাকা অথবা এর গুণিতক যে কোন অঙ্কের টাকা।

এক সপ্তকে জমা দিয়ে প্রতি মাসে লাভ প্রতি ৯০০/- টাকা মুদ্রাস্ফীত পাওয়ার এক আকর্ষণীয় সুযোগ।

সঞ্চয়ের বিপরীতে ৮০% পর্যন্ত ঋণ সুবিধা পাওয়া যাবে।

মাসিক আর্কি ফ্রি

মাসে মাসে অর্থ ছিনে নিয়ন্ত্রণ করার মাধ্যমে।

গুরুত্ব ডিপোজিট

হয়ে বছরে ডিপল, স্বল্পসংরক্ষণ ফান্ড।

ডাকনাম বেনিফিট অ্যাকাউন্ট

সর্বনিম্ন ১ লক্ষ অথবা এর গুণিতক যে কোন অঙ্কের টাকা পর্যন্ত একবার জমা দিয়ে ৬ বছরে বিভূষণ পরিমাণ টাকা পাওয়ার এক আকর্ষণীয় সুযোগ।

সেয়ারী আমানত

আমানতের উপর ৯০% পর্যন্ত ঋণ সুবিধা।

অ্যামানতে হরেক প্রকার পুরান ঋণ, পুরান ঋণ।

NBL QUICK PAY

Online & Internet Banking

শ্রদ্ধেয়া

National Bank Limited

A Bank for Performance with Potential

www.nblbd.com